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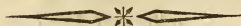




E. H. Hartshorn.

THE
NEW YORK STATE
TOURIST.

DESCRIPTIVE OF THE SCENERY
OF THE
MOHAWK & HUDSON RIVERS.



FALLS, LAKES, MOUNTAINS, SPRINGS,
RAIL ROADS & CANALS.
WITH MAPS AND VIEWS.



NEW YORK.

A. T. GOODRICH, ASTOR HOUSE,
No. 2, Barclay Street.

GEOGRAPHICAL ESTABLISHMENT AND BOOK STORE.

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THE
NORTH AMERICAN TOURIST.

PART FIRST.

ROUTES IN NEW-YORK,

TO THE

SPRINGS, LAKES, FALLS, MOUNTAINS,
HUDSON RIVER, &c.

The Hudson River.

The sources of this river are in 44° N. latitude, in a series of lakes in Essex and Hamilton counties, that lie in the mountainous and unfrequented region between Lake Champlain, the Mohawk River, St. Lawrence River, and Lake Ontario. The main, or north branch, rises 30 miles N. W. from Crown Point; the Sacondaga, or west branch, rises 30 to 40 miles W. of Lake George, and both branches unite on the eastern side of Saratoga county, in the town of Hadley, near the celebrated falls of that name. From thence, the course is southerly for a few miles, and then east, to Glenn's Falls, beyond which it turns south, and pursues a course varying but little from N. to S. nearly all the distance to the ocean, from which circumstance it derives its usual, but incorrect appellation of the North River.

In many points of view, it may be considered one of the most important streams in the world for its extent, and only, if at all, inferior in usefulness to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, but superior to them for steam-boat navigation, viz in the most remarkable circumstance, and exclusively cha

racteristic of the Hudson River from every other stream in this country—its penetrating through the chain of highlands, and being affected by the tides as far as Troy, 160 miles north, thus carrying the oceanic influence far into the interior, and yielding the greatest facilities to commerce.

The depth of water is sufficient for ship navigation as far as Hudson; and beyond that, for sloops and steamboats to Albany and Troy. It is closed by ice from the 10th or 20th of December to about the 10th of March, with occasional exceptions; but the harbor and bay of New-York are always open, so that vessels can enter and depart at any period of the winter, while the harbors of Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, are entirely closed for weeks. This is one of the principal causes of the preference given to New-York, as a sea-port, beyond any other on this coast, except Newport. Ships, with a fair wind and tide, can get to sea in one hour and thirty minutes after leaving the wharf; the distance from the city by ship channel to Sandy Hook light-house being only 18 miles.

The width of the river for 25 miles N. from New-York, is about one mile, bounded on the west by precipices of trap or green stone, from 200, and rising gradually to 500 feet in height. Beyond these, there is an expansion of the river to the width of 4 miles, called Tappan and Haverstraw bays, with the mountains on the western shore rising boldly to 700 feet in height.

The traveler then enters into the romantic region of the highlands, where the river is contracted into narrower limits, but is of greater depth, and the mountains rise on both sides with abruptness from nine to sixteen hundred feet in height. At West Point, the river turns suddenly, at right angles, to its previous course, and soon displays an opening between the mountains on the north, beyond which the country subsides into a fertile, but hilly region, which continues for a hundred miles, with a noble view of the Catskill, or spur of the Allegany Mountains, at the distance of 8 or 10 miles.

Such are the attractions possessed by this noble river, that it annually allures thousands of strangers; and this, in connection with the canal navigation, the summer visitors to the Springs, the Lakes, and to the Falls of Niagara, causes the sum of one or more millions of dollars to be expended

in this state every year, and forms a very considerable item in the prosperity and resources of the city and country.

The Hudson River, in connection with Lake Champlain, has always been the great highway to Canada, and the path or channel of military enterprise.

There are 15 to 20 steam-boats, of various sizes, plying from New-York to Albany, and other places on the river; their passage to Albany is now effected in 10 to 12 hours!

There are several falls on the river, viz.—Baker's Falls, Glenn's Falls, Hadley Falls, and others of less note. The sources of the river have never been fully surveyed; but the granitic region thereabouts undoubtedly contains many fine landscapes and scenes that will soon be better known. Its entire length may be estimated at 300 miles. Its only tributary stream of any magnitude is the Mohawk River, that falls in from the west, at Waterford, which rises 120 miles distant, in the county of Oneida. On this are the Cohoes Falls, and the Little Falls; and on West Canada Creek, emptying into the Mohawk, are the celebrated Trenton Falls, that deservedly rank high in public estimation.

As a navigable arm of the sea, and the chief cause of the prosperity of this great metropolis, the Hudson River cannot be too highly estimated; and when viewed as the connecting means of our great system of inland navigation, and with the Lakes, from Buffalo to Detroit, Michilimackinac, Green Bay, Chicago, and we soon may be enabled to say, through the Illinois River to St. Louis and New-Orleans, and also by a canal round the Sault St. Mary with the distant shores of Lake Superior, we can hardly appreciate the extent of inland trade that may, at no distant day, visit this commercial metropolis of the United States.

Henry Hudson.

Little is known of the eventful life of the celebrated navigator Henry Hudson, except that he was an Englishman, born in 1569, of good education, and an experienced and bold seaman. He early entered into a maritime life, and soon attained a distinguished rank in his profession. He resided in London, and had a family; and his only son, a

youth of great promise, shared with him in all his perils. His first voyage of discovery was in 1607, when he sailed from Gravesend to the coast of Greenland, and made important discoveries, and returned in safety. The next year he made a voyage to the northern regions. Both of the foregoing voyages were made by him in the employment of a company of merchants at London; but they not wishing his services any longer, Hudson went to Holland, and entered into the service of the Dutch East India Company, who provided him with a small ship called the *Half Moon*, and a crew of 20 men. He left Amsterdam on the 4th of April, 1609. and after sailing along the coast of America, and touching in different places, he entered the bay inside of Sandy Hook, on the 3d of September, and devoted one month to the exploring of the coast in the vicinity, and in ascending the river that bears his name. His narrative is full of interest, and his voyage and adventures up the river, and his intercourse with the natives, are told in a faithful and descriptive manner, but our limits will not admit of any minute details. The reader that is desirous of farther information on this subject, is referred to the eloquent description in Moulton's *History of this State*, which does full justice to it.

The island of Manhattan, at that period, presented a wild and rough aspect; a thick forest covered those parts of it where vegetation could find support; its beach was broken and rocky, and had several inlets; the interior was hilly, with occasional rocks, swamps, and ponds. All traces of this roughness have long since disappeared from the southern part of the island, where the city is now built, and great inroads have been made on all sides into the waters of the harbor; but to the curious, a lively idea may still be given of what was formerly the appearance on the city's site, by examining the interior of the island, 5 or 6 miles north, on the middle road, or the 3d and 8th avenues, especially the latter, and also on the banks of the Hudson and East Rivers, by which may be discovered the immense labor and expense that have been bestowed by preceding generations, in altering the natural appearance of this island.

Hudson, on his return, was forced to put into England by his crew, of whom a part were natives of that country; and he subsequently perished on a voyage to the great bay that bears his name, by the mutiny of some of his sailors.

Excursion up the Hudson River.

On leaving the city in any of the steam-boats for the north, the traveler for pleasure should, if on his *first trip*, by all means prefer the *morning* boats, at 7 A. M.; for the sake of enjoying the splendid scenery in perfection, and select on the upper deck a suitable position near the after part of the boat, and facing to the north, so as to glance readily at objects that may attract his attention on either shore.

For twenty-five miles after leaving New-York the river is very near one mile in width, and then for the next twenty expands to three or four times that width before entering the portals of the Highlands.

In passing by fifteen streets from Courtlandt-street, or twelve from Barclay-street, we are opposite the extensive steam-engine shops of Kemble and Gouverneur, and the lofty spire seen a short distance in the rear is that of St. John's Church, that faces on Hudson-square, one of the few that ornament the city.

The sixth street beyond, as we proceed, is Canal-street, leading into the heart of the metropolis; and opposite we see, on the west side of the Hudson river, a mile above Jersey city or Powles Hook, (where the rail-road begins leading to Newark and intermediate cities to Philadelphia,) the village of Hoboken, with its green lawns, shady recesses, and embowered walks leading along the shore to and beyond the seat of the Stevens family, of celebrated memory in the history of American steam-boats. The family mansion is seen on the summit of the rocky knoll; and the surrounding and embellished grounds have a bold front of a mile on the river, carefully protected by stone embankment; the artificial and shaded winding walks are gratuitously thrown open to the public by the liberal and enlightened proprietor, in their whole extent of unrivalled beauty. Mr. S. is also the one on whom the mantle of Fulton may be said to have fallen, and his countrymen have already witnessed and enjoyed the fruits of his inventive genius.

In the rear of the low grounds that environ Mr. Stevens' property on the west, is the village of *West Hoboken*, that,

from its elevated and prominent situation on the brow of the Bergen ridge, commands a fine view of the city, harbor, and surrounding country. The *Beacon Race-Course* is on the hill to the south of the adjoining wood. The ridge rises rapidly as it extends to the north, and sweeps forward in a bold and graceful curve towards the Hudson at Weehawken, where commences the remarkable ridge of trap-rock, the Palisades.

Ten streets or blocks north of Canal-street, we pass a massive-looking building with a dome or observatory, and a semi-circular colonnade to the south entrance, being a moiety of the old State Prison, now altered and improved, and used for public or benevolent purposes, the property of a wealthy citizen, Mr. L——.

If far enough out towards the middle of the stream, we can discern, in passing along the front of the city, the towering and castellated summits of the New-York University, that is situated several blocks towards the interior of the city facing on Washington-square; and also the domes of the two reservoirs of water in 13th-street, near Union-square.

After passing fourteen more streets or blocks, we notice the tall chimney of the Manhattan Gas Works, ninety feet high, and on the third and fourth blocks beyond, the handsome gothic spire and Episcopal church of St. Peters, and the Episcopal Theological Seminary, and the insulated mansion of Clement Moore, Esq. together with many other comfortable residences of wealthy citizens on the northern confines of the city; and in twelve more blocks we pass the New-York Chemical Works, and the Asylum for the Blind on the 8th and 9th Avenues, on an elevation back from the river. The Timber Basin for enclosing floating logs and rafts projects out awkwardly between 36th and 45th streets, and we are now fairly beyond the outskirts of the great metropolis, and must again glance our eye to the western shore.

The spacious stone mansion that surmounts the brow of the beginning of the Palisades, is the country residence of James G. King, Esq. the Wall-street banker, and occupies one of the most commanding sites in the vicinity of New-York, looking forth on the river below, the city and harbor, and through the Narrows to the Atlantic Ocean. There are several neat villas of less pretension exhibited

along the summit ridge as we continue on, and others at the foot, or on the slope, or curiously nestled in ravines in close proximity to masses of rock that impend over or surround them. Just before arriving at Bull's Ferry we see on the summit the mansion of William Cooper, Esq. an eminent naturalist, and one of the founders of the Lyceum of Natural History of New-York. On the opposite shore, observe the new building, the Orphan Asylum, removed to this beautiful site from its former location in Greenwich.

Many strikingly beautiful country seats of wealthy and comfortable citizens present themselves in agreeable succession for ten miles on the eastern or New-York side of the river. The narrowest pass on the Hudson below the Highlands is the rocky and acute projection beneath Fort Washington, and nearly opposite to Fort Lee. A large body of American troops in 1777 were embodied near the city of New-York, when it was captured by the British army after the battle on Long-Island, when our army was withdrawn, and a force of two or three thousand of American militia, was left to defend the weak and straggling lines that had been erected on and around the brow of the hill of Mount Washington, but they were incapable of a prolonged defence; the Hessians advanced from the east or Harlæm side in overpowering numbers, and carried the works at the point of the bayonet; the retreat of the Americans being cut off in every direction, they were slaughtered in cold blood by the foreign mercenaries, or held in captivity during the war on board the noted prison-ship in the Wallaboght, where hundreds fell victims to suffering and disease. There are very slight remains to be seen of these revolutionary field-works. The writer has often trod upon the hallowed spot before the erection of the present showy, and gay, and jaunty-looking mansions that are now seen there, one of them on the side-slope, being an hotel. The view from the crown of the hill extends for twenty miles up, and the same down the river; and eastward to Long-Island Sound and the Hempstead hills, the elevation is 238 feet; the height of the opposite cliffs at *Fort Lee landing* is 311 feet. The latter is an admired place of resort, and is fast gaining upon the knowledge and good will of the worthy citizens that venture thus far in the steam-boat, and ascend to the summit of the noble bluff, and look around

and beneath them. Perchance they stray a few miles, or lounge along near the brow of this lovely terrace, that as yet remains in all its pristine wildness and beauty. Long may it thus continue. A path leads along the summit of this noble terrace, on a smooth green sward, winding among evergreens and oaks mile after mile, now approaching to the edge of the precipice, and from salient angles exhibiting a series of bird's eye, profile, and plunging views, down and along this immense and irregular wall of trap-rock; after recoiling from the startling and sudden view of the abyss, we are led onward, by a succession of these wonderfully fine views that enchain the admiration of the artist and the lover of the grand works of nature, and can follow this path near the very brink for fifteen or twenty miles, and find the scene perpetually changing and presenting some new and striking feature of sublimity. Occasionally some rapid brawling stream or slight gurgling brook will dash along the path, and leap over the steep descent, but no serious impediment is thus presented to the active pedestrian in this prolonged ramble, but rather an additional excitement and pleasure.

The face of the summit is sufficiently clothed with a variety of forest trees, shrubbery, and flowers, to delight and amuse the botanist; the rocks here and there protrude through the surface of the soil, where the water courses and exposure to the rough and beating storms from the north-east have worn down to the hard and solid rock; yet good farms and rich gardens are found spread over its surface, on various slopes, away from the edge of the eastern face, and threading our way over the hill now ascending or descending, we find in a mile or two to the west, clearings admitting an extensive view over the distant borders of the Hackensack, and an admirable aerial perspective through the blue vapor to the chain of hills in the interior of New Jersey.

The Asylum for Lunatics at Manhattanville occupies a commanding position a few rods from the east bank of the river, and has seventy acres of ground annexed, with ample range for the inmates about the lawns, gardens, and pleasure-grounds. The leading principle of the system of management being of the most improved and humane description, and thus far with the happiest effect. The State of New-York has made liberal donations to this institu-

tion. For a full description of this and other public buildings in the metropolis, see the *Picture of New-York and Stranger's Guide*, by Goodrich.

Beyond the ruins of Fort Washington the heights of Harlæm are seen to skirt upon the river, and to trend away to the south-east along the southern side of the *Spuyten Duyvel*, or the inlet from Hurlgate to the Hudson, that insulates the island of Manhattan from the main, and that is crossed, at or near its eastern extremity, by a wooden bridge, at the termination of the Third Avenue and the viaduct leading from the Harlæm railroad to Albany, and also by the aqueduct from the Croton River, from whence the water is led down near the river road, along the height of land, for forty miles, and comes out opposite Harlæm heights, at 114 feet above tide water. This costly work is destined to last for ages, and to be of immense importance to the health and welfare of the city, and the total expense ten millions of dollars. The various excavations, tunnels, arches, embankments, superstructures, &c. are highly worthy of the minute examination of every stranger and curious visiter, and for full particulars reference may be had to the *Picture of New-York* as before mentioned.

Phillipsburgh, or Yonkers.

Seventeen miles from New-York, at the mouth of a small stream called the Sawmill River, next occurs on the east shore, and as it is deeply nestled in the vale, the stranger will be apt to overlook it, unless the boat should hug the shore on that side. The spire of the village church, peering up from amid the trees, and ruling over the quietness and seclusion of the old Dutch settlement, with its waterfall, mills, and comfortable abodes, neat lawns and gardens, is quite a picture; but if the boat keep too far out in the stream, as usual, much of this effect and feeling is lost; but if the traveler will, at this spot, direct his attention to the line of the Palisades on the opposite or west shore, he will behold the highest part of the range 517 to 550 feet high: the summit even and regular as the cornice of a house, the entire facade like the ruins of an ancient feudal castle, or-

namented with the moss and hue of antiquity. The next hundred years will present, on the crowning ridge of the majestic Palisades, one of the most imposing assemblages of elegant and substantial mansions that the world can display, and will be a suitable finish to such a commanding elevation. Our prophecy is already begun to be fulfilled in part, twenty miles below, at Bergen, Hoboken, and Weehawken.

Taking a retrospective profile view of the west shore when approaching the termination where the precipice subsides opposite Dobb's Ferry landing, or Hastings or Greenbush, the singular effect will be noticed that is produced by the gradual diminution of the height from north to south, adding to and distorting the regular perspective effect agreeable to the laws of vision—but the vista, nevertheless, is grand and unrivalled; and when viewed in various aspects, in the bright morning sun, or the coming shadows of evening, or tipt or shrouded with mist, or in the mild effulgence of the full orb'd moon, new sources of beauty are noticed and elicited, equally gratifying and surprising to the observer of the picturesque in nature.

This rugged-looking mass of rock, that seems to defy the thought of scaling its frowning and severe walls, may be ascended in a few places; and at Closter landing, opposite Phillipsburgh, a country road exists and extends up by several zig-zag and sharp turns, and ascends to the summit level and leads to the secluded valley on the western slope of the English (Dutch) Neighborhood along the Hackensack River.

The boundary line of New-York and New Jersey strikes off to the N. W. from about the highest place of the palisade range; and from the first dock north, a path branches to the left, or south, by which the pedestrian may, by following for a mile or two, reach the summit of the hill, panting with his exertion, and be fully rewarded by the panoramic scene before him.

At about 22 miles from New-York we enter upon the first change in the usual width of the Hudson River; the shores recede on each side, and leave an expansion three miles broad, known by the high sounding name of the *Tappan Sea*, and especially commended to the notice of the traveler from historical and literary associations. The fields on each border of the river, especially on the east, in



the county of West Chester, were the neutral ground, or scene of border operations during the American war, when the enemy held possession of New-York and sent out their foraging and marauding parties; and the tale of many a border story and feat of arms is associated with the hills and valleys around the range of our view, this being a hazardous region for both parties, and more particularly for whig and tory, militia and cow-boys. Spies were employed on both sides, and when caught, as Major Andre had the ill luck to be, near the village here in plain sight on the east, called Tarrytown, and carried over the river to Tappan, about three miles up the hill west of the landing, and hung; it was no more than the fortune of war, and to be expected by all that ventured on such a graceless employment.

The literary reminiscences alluded to are of more recent origin, and of a much more agreeable character, being the emanations of the popular American author, Washington Irving. His country seat is appropriately and judiciously placed near the margin of the Hudson, and amid the very scenes immortalized in portions of his most facetious Knickerbocker and his inimitable Sketch Book. His villa is on the eastside of the river, about 25 miles from New-York, and may be pointed out to the eager eyes of the inquisitive traveler as of moderate dimensions, and with queer gables in the Dutch style, with a neat lawn and grounds environing it, and is within a short distance of Tarrytown, and of the Dutch Church, bridge, and pond in the valley of Sleepy-hollow, of Ichabod Crane memory.

The great rail-road projected from the Hudson River to Lake Erie, will commence at the landing at the west side the Slote, a mile above the Palisades, and follow the ravine up to the west and north-west, near the border line of New Jersey.

Nyack,

twenty-five miles from New-York, the next village north of Tappan, has a landing, and a road that leads over the mountain to the interior of Rockland county. The red sandstone was formerly quarried in abundance in this vicinity

for the city market, until the eastern granite and the marble of West Chester county supplanted it in the favor of the public. The large *State Prison* at *Sing-Sing*, on the immediate bank of the river on the east shore, is an extensive construction of the marble above alluded to and reared by the convicts, and is capable of *celling* or caging one thousand, side by side and tier on tier, like a hive of bees. The system of discipline here pursued is rigid, and exacting strict silence, severe labor, and solitary confinement at night.

Croton River

comes in about 2 miles above Sing-Sing, and supplies at times a considerable volume of water to the Hudson in the spring season. It rises in Putnam county, in the Highlands east of the Hudson, near the Connecticut line, in Patterson, Kent, and South East; and has its sources in pure ponds in a granite region; and after running in a south-western direction for about forty miles through North Salem, Somers, Bedford, Yorktown, and Cortlandt, what then remains of the water after a portion of it being diverted and taken off to supply the large reservoirs and thirsty population, and to cleanse the dusty streets of the great metropolis, forty miles below, falls into the noble Hudson at *Teller's Point*, and has there formed a mass of earth and stones, that the rapid freshets of the Croton have accumulated into a respectable isthmus or prolongation of land that intrudes out a mile from the east towards the western shore, and thus distinctly separates the Tappan from the Haverstraw bay.

Vredidicker Hook,

a bold headland that rises majestically from the water on the west shore between the villages of Nyack and Haverstraw, is 668 feet in height, and stretches gracefully out to meet the low land from the eastern shore, and forms a distinct point of demarcation between the upper and lower bays; and the tourist will observe that each successive and

prominent mass of rock on the western shore from the southern point of Bergen in New Jersey, where it dips beneath the waves of the Kills, as we proceed up the Hudson, attains gradually a greater elevation, as will be seen as we proceed in our course through the Highlands and to the Catskills, where "*Alps on Alps arise*," and thus prepares the astonished and delighted traveler, by mild and successive gradations of increasing height, grandeur, and sublimity, for the more imposing and delightful scenes that will now soon be disclosed.

On the Vredidiker mountain is a *clear crystal lake* of three or four miles in circumference, that forms the source of the Hackensack River, and although not more than a short mile from the Hudson, is elevated above it about two hundred and fifty feet; and if the traveler notices a depression of the ridge above at the first landing, after passing close beneath the Vredidiker mountain, with a steep road ascending the hill, he will have the locality in view, as the lake is there in that direction; and the pure clear Rockland ice that is supplied to the citizens of New-York, is produced at this spot, by the unmitigated and prolonged severity of the Siberian climate of this exposure; and the delicious ice-creams and the wicked bowls of punch that are consumed in New-York owe their charms in a large degree to the reservoir of ice that is here cut out in huge blocks, and slid down to the level of the river below, and when the river breaks up, vast stores of this commodity are transported to the city.

We now glide rapidly past the Vredidicker, into a second expansion of the Hudson, the *Haverstraw Bay*, of about the same size as the previous one that we have left behind us, and our course, that, soon after leaving the city, had for twenty miles been nearly due north until we past the Palisades and the Sea of Tappan, now assumes, for the ensuing ten miles, a north-west direction, and gives us leisure to cast a retrospective glance towards the smooth bay we have just left behind us, and the fast receding outlines of the distant Palisades, fading into the dim blue haze of the horizon, with its beautiful aerial tints; our attention will now be directed to the extensive panorama that surrounds us, to the singular crest and form of the mountain-top on the west shore, known as the *High Torn*, about eight hundred feet in height, (and a remarkable and distinct landmark even from as low down as Newark bay, and the hills of

Staten Island and New Jersey,) with the village of Haverstraw or Warren at the base, and the fine curved line of the shores and slopes of the hills on each side as we approach the landings of *Grassy Point* on the west, and *Verplanck's* on the east, and the light-house on *Stony Point* opposite. This eminence is memorable for the bloody assault made upon it during the revolutionary war by Gen. Wayne and his brave American troops, that were detached for that purpose by Gen. Washington, from the forces at West Point, and after making a detour among the hills for twenty miles, approached this post (then held by the enemy, and strongly fortified and manned) and stealthily and in the profound silence and darkness of midnight, with fixed bayonets and undimmed guns, surprised the unwary sentinels and distant out-posts, advanced suddenly to the attack, cut down the pickets, entered and carried the works by a coup de main, without firing a gun, and made prisoners of the garrison, sparing all that threw down their arms. The enemy also at the same time held possession of the fort across the river at Verplanck's Point, and the next day a warm exchange of cannon balls took place, that resulted in the evacuation of Stony Point by the American troops that had so gallantly captured it; as a much superior force of the enemy was advancing upon them, and it was useless to resist the combined attack that was preparing by the British force by land and water. The fort was demolished, and the military stores taken away:—thus it had alternately been taken originally from Wayne by the British, then recaptured by him, and again retaken by the enemy, and held during the war.

Having entered the portals, and here rapidly drawing near the most interesting scenery of the Highlands, we recommend the traveler at this time, when about forty miles from New-York, for the sake of having an unobstructed view, to assume a position on the upper deck on the forward part, and to make a diligent use of his eyes in viewing the objects and leading features that pass in such rapid review.

The *Dunderberg*, or Dunderbarrack, or *Thunder* mountain on the west, is nine hundred feet high, and ranges for several miles from south-west to north-east, and from its rounded and commanding summit, is a very extensive view over the county of Westchester to Long Island Sound, and

down the river and bays that we have passed, to the vicinity of New-York, and across the east side of the Hudson to Peekskill, and the mountains in Putnam county, and the summits around West Point. The village of *Caldwell*, or Gibraltar, as sometimes called, is at the base of the mountain, and is usually the first landing-place for the large Albany boats after leaving the city of New-York, and where the Peekskill passengers disembark.

One that has never before ascended the Hudson River, would here be at a loss to conjecture from this position, as he looks around and is apparently embayed, in what direction to look for extrication from this *cul de sac*; whether through the deep opening to the right, or the one in front leading through the vista in the mountains;—after being kept in agreeable suspense for a few minutes while near the Caldwell landing, and gazing up at the stupendous elevation close at hand, that the steamer almost brushes or grazes in its panting and rapid course, the boat suddenly is directed to the left or west, round the acute point or angle that opens into the *race*, a short reach of the river between the *Dunderberg* on the south, and St. Anthony's, the next point on the north.

After advancing for a few minutes to the west, when near the Salisbury island, do not omit to observe the grandeur produced by the amphitheatrical slope and termination of the Dunderberg mountain on the left, with its hardy covering of evergreen trees, the pines or cedars, that here fill up an angle of several degrees above the horizon as we pass within shadow of the reflection in the deep water at its base; or the towering front of the Bare Mountain, that here presents its majestic elevation on the west, of one thousand three hundred and fifty feet. Plover's creek, a small mill-stream, that has its origin a few miles in the interior of Rockland county, finds its way through the dark ravine down to the base of the mountain, and forms a secluded basin or harbor for the small river sloops that frequent the mills and landing to load with flour and wood.

Each side of the creek on the crest of the hill, are the remains of two field-works, forts Clinton and Montgomery, erected during the war of the revolution, as a part of the system planned for the defence of the Highlands. In the affair that here transpired, October, 1777, several hundred

men fell in the attack and defence of this mountain pass on the banks of the Hudson. Sir Henry Clinton led the attack, and destroyed the large boom and chain that cost seventy thousand pounds sterling, and another of less value at fort Constitution. This first massive boom and iron chain was extended across from the east to the west shore opposite to the point of St. Anthony, and under the guns of forts opposite, in the vain attempt to stop, or momentarily impede the progress of the large armed ships of the enemy, in their advance up the river with troops to aid Burgoyne, and to burn the towns above. But this was money wasted on both sides, for the chain did not accomplish its intention, although it cost an immense sum of money, and the union with Burgoyne was not effected.

The bloody affair in this mountain fastness resulted in the capture of the place by the enemy at the point of the bayonet, after the garrison of only six hundred men had made a gallant defence against a very superior force (three thousand) that came upon them unawares.

It was upon this occasion that George Clinton, one of the officers in command, Governor of New-York, and subsequently Vice-President of the United States, succeeded in making his escape in the dusk of eve in a boat, and his brother James also, though wounded, by plunging into the Hudson and swimming to the opposite shore.

Anthony's Nose, on the right or east shore, that rears its much admired pyramidical-shaped mass of rocks to an elevation of eleven hundred and twenty-eight feet, at an angle estimated at forty-five or fifty degrees from the level of the noble river that deeply skirts its base, and terminates the reach called the Race, introduces us to another of the lovely changes in the scenery of this famous region, when the traveler is enabled by the progress of the steamer to turn the sharp corner of the saint's prominence, vulgarly called his *nose*, and thus, by a shifting of the scene, to behold another admirable vista of six or seven miles in extent, running nearly north and south, between mountains and ranges of pleasing variety and contour, especially the east or right hand shore, with the intervention of an island and a low green meadow on the left, to soften and harmonize the picture, aided by the rude log hut of the fisherman or woodman, with just sufficiency of arable and grazing land at his command to enable him to exhibit an abortive

attempt perhaps to raise his indian corn, peas, and pumpkins.

Beyond the island, and four miles from the race, we come to the flour mills at *Buttermilk Falls*; but as the truth of its name and Dutch cognomen depends entirely upon a bountiful supply of water, wasting and spreading over the smooth surface of a solid rock, and fretting itself into a fury and foam in its snowy descent, and as this requisite supply cannot always be spared, or allowed to stray and straggle away in this manner, from the undeniable requirements of the mill during a drought or dry long season of midsummer, merely to gratify the eyes of ladies and gentlemen that pass it for a minute or two in rapid review, it may be proper here to state, that though at certain times and seasons of the year it exhibits much beauty, and is a just object of admiration, yet at others the stream is dwindled to a mere rill, and the searcher after the picturesque and beautiful is liable to be sadly disappointed, when nothing can be seen but the stains on the naked rock, the traces of its former ephemeral beauty.

A more durable and enduring monument of nature, in the size, height, and form of the *sugar loaf mountain*, nearly opposite to Lydig's mills, or the Buttermilk Falls, is worthy of our notice as we get on,—its height is eight hundred and sixty feet, a little more than the famous pyramids of Egypt. As the traveler changes his position, and views this object on various sides and at different angles, the resemblance to a sugar loaf cannot always in such cases be detected, but it resembles much some of the bluffs on the Mississippi or Missouri.

The mansion opposite the falls, and in the vicinity of the sugar loaf, is the property of Mr. Arden, as is also the hilly and wooded tract to a considerable extent around; and at a very few rods in a southern direction, in a spot not visible to the traveler in passing on the river, is the memorable scene where Benedict Arnold held his secret and treasonable midnight interviews with the adjutant-general of the British army, to make his developements and unfold his plans to deliver up West Point, the American army and the nation, into the power of the enemy then our opponents; the best details of these events may be found in the recent publication of Spark's American Biography, in the sketch of Arnold; it only remains for us to say, that

the tragical fate and denouement of an individual in the story has elicited too much mawkish sensibility towards one of the principal actors in this drama of the history of America.

When at about fifty miles from New-York, we catch the first glimpse of the ruins of *Fort Putnam*, in a north-west direction, five hundred and ninety-eight feet above the river, peering over the brow of the hill on the left, and soon after, of the outworks and buildings attached to the United States military academy at West Point. The hospital, a substantial edifice of hewn stone, of two stories, with a front towards the river on the east, a piazza and wings, is the first indication of our proximity to this celebrated school, and of the principal edifices that soon begin to appear in part on the terrace, one hundred and eighty-eight feet above the river.

On the face of the hill beneath, may be pointed out the descent towards the *garden of Kosciusko*, the Polish patriot of our own revolution, in whose honor the cadets of this academy, in 1828, caused a neat and classical marble monument to be erected, as a memorial of the gratitude of a nation for the sympathy of a foreigner of celebrity towards us, that also yielded his life in support of our cause. This cenotaph stands out in bold relief before us, guarded by an iron railing, on the very verge of the precipitous hill, and near and amidst the remains of the revolutionary field-works erected by Gen. Putnam and the old continental army in 1776-7. The garden referred to, and the clear boiling spring near it, enclosed in a marble reservoir, with durable and ornamental steps leading down from the plain above, with an arrangement of benches on a projection of the rock for visitors, may be seen in passing by, but to more satisfaction by those landing at the point.

The manner and style of natural adornment that is presented by the face of the grounds and rocks attached to this national domain, is in good taste in every respect, of art assisting nature, and in harmony and keeping throughout, and cannot fail to impress the traveler, when he observes the formation of the fantastic rocks, wild moss covered crags, luxuriantly-garlanded pillars and creeping shrubs, and the cottages and hamlets perched on the slopes, terraces, and crags, in most admired confusion. The elegant mansion on the east side of the river was erected by Capt. Phillips, and is one of the choicest sites on the Hudson, and commands one of the finest

panoramas in the United States, and is now owned and occupied by Mr. Kemble.

We have now arrived at the termination of the six mile reach before referred to, and must stand prepared to behold another magical transformation of the bewitching scenery of the river as the boat takes a sharp turn around the low rocky projection or reef on the west, and unfolds one of the loveliest views in the world to the enraptured gaze of the beholder. The lake-like expansion of the river, with the steep front of the lofty mountain that here faces us, called the *Crow's Nest*, rising to the height of one thousand four hundred and eighteen feet, with a depression on its top for the nest, giving a fancied resemblance to the name it bears; together with the general coup d'œil of the mountains, and the entire panorama of lesser hills and rocky eminences or projections, completes the magnificent framing of this truly splendid landscape, that few can behold for the first time without a feeling of the most rapturous enjoyment.

The boat comes to the landing at West Point and discharges and takes in passengers, and allows time enough for the passing traveler barely to see the *capital hotel* on the brow of the hill, and perchance to regret his inability to tarry there for a short period, and test the capabilities of the location and of the landlord, both, to our knowledge, of the first order of excellence; the view from the observatory on the top of the hotel is peculiarly fine in all its parts, but especially on the north, looking down upon the Hudson and towards Newburgh, and the remote chain of Shawangunk mountains in the dim blue distance towards the north-west—the plain and level parade of West Point, and the arrangement of the public edifices for the two hundred and fifty cadets, and the private residences of the commanding officers and the professors, are beneath the eye. After the yearly examination in June, the cadets are encamped on the plain for a certain period, when the drills and parades are worth seeing. The academy has been in existence since 1802, and is under congressional and executive patronage.

Another of the booms and massive iron chains was also extended across the river, from the south side to Constitution Island, that projects from the north shore; the battered surface of the rock there is caused by the artillery or target firing for ball practice, and a few casualties that have occurred in the corps, are enumerated on the monumental tablet on the brow

of the opposite hill on the west shore. A portion of the great chain as above mentioned is still to be seen with the revolutionary relics. The head quarters of Gen. George Washington while in this neighborhood, were on the site of a building near an indentation of the shore, and at the water's edge, a little beyond the burying-ground of the academy.

In receding from, or advancing towards West Point, the finest panoramic view is beheld of all the public buildings on and around the plain, and also of the ruins of fort Putnam, still lording it over the plain and river below.

The passage through the Highlands is sometimes perilous for sloop navigation, owing to the sudden and impetuous gusts or flaws of wind that come pouring down between the lofty hills and deep gorges and ravines, with hardly a moment's warning, even during the calm pleasant days of summer and other seasons, upsetting the unwary mariner, and involving the crew and passengers in a watery grave. Such was the fate of the sloop *Neptune*, of Newburgh, on the twenty-third of November, 1824, near Cold Spring, when fifty-five persons were on board, twenty-six of whom perished in four minutes, and the sloop was engulfed in the profound abyss below. The dread of these rapid and powerful descents of air from the upper regions, down to the surface of the river, requires the exertion of the utmost vigilance on the part of the navigators of sloops and river craft, and it was only a few months since that a schooner heavily laden with coal was upset near West Point, and the vessel and all on board were engulfed in a moment.

The village of *Cold Spring* is prettily situated in a cove or recession of the east bank of the Hudson, between Constitution Island and Bull Hill, and has a good landing, and a road that leads to the interior of Putnam county, and to the road to Albany and New-York. The place is owned by the wealthy Mr. Kemble and others, and contains the elegant country seat of Gen. Morris, editor of the *New-York Mirror*, also that of Mr. Kemble, the proprietor of the *West Point foundry*, that is here situated on a stream that has a heavy water power, flowing down from the hills in the vicinity, with a water-fall, immortalized by the feat and narration of Miss Fanny Kemble, see vol. 2d, p. 164. The foundry has two blast, three air, and three cupola furnaces, a boring-mill for heavy cannon, mortars, cylinders, lathes, an iron water wheel, thirty-six feet in diameter, besides a large establishment in Beach and Wash-

ington-streets, in New-York, on the bank of the river, for constructing sugar mill works, steam engines, and machinery, fitting the same in steamboats, repairing, &c.; employing several hundred workmen in the various branches, in both places.

The boring of cannon is as follows: the solid mass of iron in the shape of 18, 24, 32 and 42 pounders, when cast, are solid, and weigh, perhaps, several tons, and are then firmly secured or arranged on horizontal pivots, and made to revolve rapidly like a turning lathe, by the immense water wheel connected with them, and the boring augur being applied to the proper end, it is surprising to see how easy and simple is the process, and how smooth and regular is the bore. Large contracts for cannon have been taken and made by this concern, with the United States government; and the regular process for the trial and proving of the strength of each cannon is as follows: the pieces are arranged at intervals, heavily loaded, and double shotted, their muzzles pointed to a ridge of earth, or the target on the rock at the base of the mountain across the west side of the Hudson, and then fired in succession. The echo among these mountains is truly grand on such an occasion, and when a *feu de joie*, or *salvo*, is made, by discharging all the cannon simultaneously, the effect is really glorious, and seems like a mighty rushing wind or earthquake, shaking the very foundations of the earth.

The writer of this was once passing by on board a sloop, and floating smoothly along with the tide past this spot, during a proof trial of the cannon at this foundry, when the moment we had barely cleared their range, whiz-z-z whistled a heavy cannon ball passing within a few inches of our stern, and of the quiet children and passengers on deck, before even we heard the heavy *bang* of the discharge, or turned around and saw the smoke passing off in curling volumes; this was only done in *sport*, to test the accuracy of their aim, to see how *near* they could come to us without *hitting*; this might have been sport to them, but not so to those on board at the time. If the least flaw or defect is seen in the cannon, the piece is rejected, much to the loss of the proprietors, that have to allow their manufactures to undergo this severe ordeal, before they will be accepted and paid for by the government.

Bull Hill, on the east shore, is the next in course, and

being 1,486 feet high, and containing, about *midway* between the base and summit, on a *portion* of the *profile* edge towards the river, a noted mass of rock resembling the human forehead, nose, mouth, and chin, with a tree projecting almost like a cigar or pipe, is never passed by the old voyagers and knowing ones without being pointed out to their wondering and amused friends, and one must be quick in observation at the time, and accurate in the direction of their eyesight, as the glimpse is but for a minute or two, and the rapid progress of a steamer soon takes you beyond the only point of view, when the illusion vanishes, and the famous and veritable nose of St. Anthony, the presiding Dutch genius of the Hudson and Mohawk, is gone.

Break Neck Hill, 1,181 feet high, is the last bluff on the east or right shore in passing up the river, the highest peak, 1,580, being a mile or so to the northeast, and seen when a few miles up nearer Newburgh to the best advantage.

Butler Hill, the last of the highland river range on the west, is 1,529 feet high, and as the boats usually keep nearer to the base of that mountain, it forms a more impressive and overwhelming sight to the traveler than any other, from its immense and toppling masses of craggy rocks, and sweep of precipice, especially towards the south—the eagle is often seen seeking his eyrie amid these inaccessible and solitary positions, and watching, from his lofty post or alighting place, the finny tribes beneath the waves.

The curious rock found so beautifully perched on the summit of this mountain, and having the appearance at a distance of a *tent* or *marquee*, and that was so uselessly and with so much trouble displaced by Gen. Putnam in a rude vandal and wanton spirit of destruction, merely to see it tumble headlong down the mountain to the water's edge, where it is said it is still to be seen, will never cease to be regretted by posterity as an act of wicked frivolity and wanton destruction totally irreparable, and only to be winked at or overlooked as an indiscreet act of a brave man, and his followers, or fellow-soldiers, but to be frowned upon and prevented at all future times, as should be all attempts to mar or disfigure the curiosities or wonderful forms and arrangements of nature. Recently, the officers and crew of a British man of war, on the coast of Great Britain, undertook and performed very much such an useless and disgraceful act, that, when known, met with such a general burst of indigna-

tion and disgust, that the British government instantly ordered the same crew and officers to replace the stone on the same foundation, although it was like the labors of *Sisyphus*.

Having finished the Highlands, we pass a mass of rock near the channel called *Pollorell Island*, having the appearance of the top of a sunken mountain, and without any sign of human residence, or ownership, or occupation even by reptiles, though snakes are said to abound, but how they got there no one can tell, and few can stop to ascertain the fact. Like Snakehill in Newark meadows, it has this scare-crow rattle-snake celebrity, as far as we are cognizant, without the least cause whatever; if any one doubts, let him land and explore.

The gorgeous scenes of the Highland passage being finished, the observant traveler will have a store of rich recollection and resplendent imagery treasured up in his mind and imagination, that will reward him in his future life when brought up in review, aided by his reading and reflections and other associations connected with the history of America.

Cornwall and *Canterbury* are two villages and landings near the northern base of Butter Hill, and three to four miles from Newburgh, that are the first settlements that appear on the left when we leave the straits of the Highlands, and glide into the expansion of the Hudson, between Newburgh and Fishkill and New Windsor.

Moodenen, or Murdenen, or Orange Kill, coming from the interior of Orange county, near Goshen, joins the Hudson between Canterbury and New Windsor, and is a considerable mountain and mill stream.

New Windsor is a considerable landing-place, and has its sloops, docks, and regular steamboats plying to New-York daily, or two or three times a week, similar to all the towns on the river of any note, and here also is a humble-looking old Dutch-like mansion near the south wharf, that was in 1774, for a time, the temporary head-quarters of Washington.

There are neat residences on the northern slope of Butter Hill, also on the hill near the landing of *New Windsor*. The embowered abode on the opposite low shore, on a round beautifully wooded verdant spot, is the country seat of Wm. Denning, Esq. called by him *Presque Isle*. The modest-looking country seat and extensive grounds of John P. De Wint,

Esq. is the next seen on the east side above Fishkill landing, presenting an extensive and handsomely wooded front towards the river, with a complete view of the entrance of the Highlands and the opposite city.

Newburgh,

from its peculiar situation on a hill presenting a very steep acclivity, is completely arrayed to the view of the passing traveler, and makes quite a display of business, and has its whale ships abroad, and its own steamboats and sloops in abundance, besides being one of the principal landing and stopping-places for all the steamboats that go to and fro between New-York and Albany, and a great outlet to the central and western parts of the State of New-York, and having roads and stages to all the inland towns and along the river; and is noted also for its ale. The communication with Dutchess county is kept up by a ferry across to Fishkill landing, with its long pier reaching out to the channel. The *Matteawan cotton factory* (Schenck's) is at the base of the Fishkill chain of hills near the mouth of the creek, and has a valuable water-power, mill, &c. and is a well managed concern. There are two highland schools, one at Cold Spring, on the hill near the foundery before mentioned, and the other here.

The geology of the Highlands is primitive, but from hence to Troy and Waterford it is transition, and we are now entering upon and passing along its borders, as denoted by the limestone and kilns along shore for several miles. The interior of Orange and Dutchess counties is fertile, and they are the dairies for the city, especially Goshen in Orange county.

From the highest peak of the Fishkill range, in plain sight, parties of pleasure that assemble from the vales of the neighboring counties, to scale the arduous ascent, on foot or in carriages, have a transcendently fine bird's-eye view down upon the Hudson from Newburgh up the river to a great distance, altogether superior in *this* respect to any other place, not forgetting even the Catskill Pine Orchard, that can be faintly discerned in the remotest distance, and also the nearer sweep of the Shawangunk range, form-

ing the limit to the west, with all the intermediate country back of Newburgh also expanded to the eye, and on the right hand is seen in the far distance the prominent ranges and peaks in Massachusetts and Vermont, to the utmost verge of human vision. To visit this peak, land at Newburgh, cross the river to Fishkill landing, and foot it up the hill in two hours with ease; the road is followed and traced up without the least difficulty, and the writer accomplished this in the time mentioned, and was not molested by or saw the least appearance of snakes or reptiles, although he trudged about considerably along the range towards the southwest, to change his points of view. Any one having the time to devote to the ascension of this mountain, will have seen this part of the Hudson River valley, &c. in unequalled perfection.

Proceeding on from Newburgh in a north-east course for six miles, in a handsome reach of the river, we pass *Low Point*, a small landing on the east with a few buildings, and in a few minutes' time reach a bold headland or rock on the west shore, *Dans commer* or *Dans kamer* point, and facetiously referred to by Knickerbocker, as "where Gov. Stuyvesant in his voyage up and landing on this rock, was frightened out of his wits by a gang of merry roistering devils, freaking and curveting on a huge rock projected into the river, and which is called the Duyvill Dans Kamer to this day."

From the last mentioned point the river assumes, for ten or fifteen miles, a due north and south course, in a reach of exquisite beauty towards Poughkeepsie, that is clearly discovered in the distant perspective.

Hamburgh on the east shore, is at the mouth of Wappinger Creek, a good mill stream, rising about thirty or forty miles to the north-east, and pervading the county of Dutchess, and having much fine rich interval land on its margin. A mile and a half north is passed a neat but unobtrusive house on the east, the former residence of George Clinton, governor of this State, and recently of Gen. James Tallmadge; and on the west shore nearly opposite, we see a new and elegant house of Mr. Armstrong, and the village or landing of *Hampton*, and one and a half miles further is *Jews' Creek*, the paradise of the brickmakers, as is the shore hereabouts for the lime-burners.

Barnegat is the next landing on the east, as is Milton on

the west, and as we approach that of *Poughkeepsie* on the east, the traveler will please to notice the singular conformation of the rocky and distorted slaty shores that rise in a threatening and dangerous manner near the landing, in a bold rocky bluff, that from its summit commands an extensive and beautiful reach up and down the river, and of the opposite shores in New Paltz.

The landing at *Poughkeepsie* is *seventy-five miles* from New-York, and *sixty-nine* from Albany, and has the aspect of a stirring business place; there are several extensive manufactories (a large one for making steam locomotives) and warehouses along the river front, and there are several ships equipped from hence on whaling voyages, that make it upon the whole a good business. The city is principally built on the upper part of the hill, one mile east of the Hudson, at the intersection of the old route leading to Albany and New-York, and to the States of Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Dutch made their inroads upon the Indians in this vicinity in 1735; and in 1788 the New-York convention here assembled that adopted the constitution of the United States, and it has also at other periods, for a short time, been the seat of the State Legislature. The number of inhabitants at the present time is six thousand five hundred. *Fall Creek* runs through the north part of the city, and forms in its course down the ravine, cataracts and mill seats. The city has its own steam and tow-boats, to take the produce of this fertile county to the metropolis with speed and regularity, and this mode is fast supplanting the old tedious system of sloop navigation on this river.

There are several neat, tidy-looking villas or country seats adorning the river's bank in the vicinity of the landing, and at intervals along for several miles, as we approach or recede from the landing; and at the end of the before-mentioned long reach or meridional north and south line, we find ourselves drawing near a slight inflection, or divergence in the course of the river, called *Crum Elbow*, when, as we pass out of the long reach that the interlocking of the opposite shores excludes from our view, we see, far ahead, (if we occupy at this moment a favorable position on the upper deck,) the first dim outline in the blue distance, of the Catskill mountains, towering aloft like a thunder cloud.

We are now passing the rough *castellated front* of *Hyde*

Park, a place so called, that for three or four miles along the road, on the table land north and south, contains the elegant country seats of Mr. *Girard*, Mr. *Holbrook*, Judge Johnson, Dr. Allen, and that of the late Doctors Baid and Hosack, Judge Pendleton, H Wilkes, and others. The *avenue* leading past this strikingly beautiful series of farms, and the residences of the affluent and tasteful owners, is not in sight of the steamboat passengers only in part; but a more superb line of road, for the same distance, does not exist in this State, considering the auxiliaries that come into view before the traveler; the fine avenue and its ornamental forest trees of the maple, locust, &c. and the unrivalled back ground of the landscape, the elevated and cultivated and woody slopes of the west borders of the Hudson, that from their proximity and the easy angle of inclination, have a most graceful appearance in contrast with the more distant towering back ground of the blue range of the Catskills, in the north-west.

Eighty miles from New York, at the mouth of Crum Elbow Creek, on the east shore, is the landing-place of Hyde Park, and a few rods north, we see the splendidly-arranged house and grounds of the late Dr. David Hosack, of New-York, and purchased by him of Wm. Bard, Esq. the son of the late Dr Samuel Bard, one of the founders of the New-York Hospital—the extent of the land purchased by Dr. H. amounted in all to about eight hundred acres, and the original cost to him, including his subsequent improvements, was \$100,000. He had the grounds laid out in the most tasteful, attractive style, with gravel walks following the windings and undulations along the verge of the natural terrace, overlooking the Hudson river directly beneath, and the deep, abrupt, grassy and wooded lawn for a mile or two, and ending in a small circular temple on the rocky margin of the Hudson. The waters of the Crum Elbow Creek run through the grounds, and are so disposed as to add to the beauty and value of the property. Since the death of the late proprietor Dr. H. the very extensive collection of hot-house plants has been disposed of at auction.

The next in rotation of the pleasant mansions on the east shore, is that of Judge Pendleton, and in two miles that of H. Wilkes. Nearly opposite a rocky island, two miles beyond, on the east shore, at eighty-five miles from New-York, in the township of Staatsburg, is the residence of Mor-

gan Lewis, Esq. the governor of the State in 1803; and near by is that of James Duane Livingston, and for the next two or three miles in passing along by the Esopus Meadows or flats, we see, on the east, the mansion of J. Thomson.

On the west shore, just before arriving at a bleak rocky point, Columbus, ninety miles from New-York, the place of landing for *Esopus*, four miles distant, we pass the termination or beginning of the Shawangunk range, here called *Mombackus*, or *Indian face*, that extends in a south-west direction for seventy miles, to the Delaware River.

The Waalkill River, that here comes into the Hudson from the south-west, is about eighty miles long, and rises in the large morass or overflown tract in Orange County, known as the drowned lands, ten miles long and three wide, and follows at the eastern base of the Shawangunk range for many miles, and receives as branches, the Shawangunk kill and the *Rondout kill*, and up the valley of the latter proceeds the *Delaware and Hudson Canal* from its termination at *Eddyville*, about four miles to the south-west. Bolton landing is about one mile from Columbus, and is in plain view from the Hudson, in passing the point.

The Lackawana coal is brought to Eddyville from the mines in Pennsylvania by rail-road sixteen miles and canal one hundred and eight miles. It is a singular fact that the *summit level* of the Delaware and Hudson Canal, at a morass where the Barkers kill (running southwest to the Nevisink and Delaware) interlocks with the Sandberg kill, (that runs north-east to the Rondout kill and the Hudson,) is more than four hundred feet above the Hudson, and only eighty feet above the Delaware; thus a dam across the Delaware at Carpenter's Point or Port Lewis, fifty-nine miles from the Hudson, at the west border of Orange County, might be made to divert the entire waters of the Delaware, in a north-east course towards the valley of the Hudson River, along the western base of the Shawangunk mountains, and this, from geological appearances, was formerly the case. There are no passage-boats, but coal-boats plying on this canal as it is entirely out of the usual route for pleasure travelers, otherwise the scenery on the canal has some recommendations. Though it may be possible to get on in that way, and *rough* it to the head of the canal at Honesdale, and then take stage for Wilkesbarre, or Montrose, or Binghamton, and then branch off either to Utica, and the Mohawk, and

the St. Lawrence; or on the west, on the banks of the Susquehanna to Owego and up to Ithaca and down the Cayuga or Seneca Lake, or from Owego farther west by the valley of the Susquehannah to Tioga Point, thence north-west to Newtown, Painted Post, Bath, Batavia and Niagara Falls—it must be confessed, a wilder route could not be selected, yet at Honesdale and Carbondale, and in passing the main ridges, there would be much to gratify the eye of the poet, the philosopher, and the landscape painter.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal is thirty-two to thirty-six feet wide, and four deep,—ascent five hundred and thirty-five, and descent eighty feet,—sixty-two locks, and six hundred and fifteen feet lockage;—cost of canal, sixteen thousand dollars per mile,—the elevation on the Moosic mountain is overcome by five inclined planes, each from two thousand to three thousand feet in length,—single track and cost six thousand five hundred dollars per mile.

There are always stages on the dock at Columbus to convey passengers to Kingston, three miles inland to the north-west, on a handsome plain. This was settled by the Dutch as early as 1616; it is the county town of Ulster, and was destroyed by fire in 1777, by the British troops under Vaughan. The court house is a stone building, and cost forty thousand dollars. The other public and many private buildings are also of stone, and the inhabitants wealthy and industrious. The village has the advantage of large lots and gardens, and must be an agreeable residence. The flats along the Esopus creek, in front of the village, are rich and handsome. There are about two thousand inhabitants.

Opposite to Columbus or Kingston, is the landing of *Rhinebeck*, (derived from river Rhine in Germany, and Beckman, the name of an original proprietor.) The village, containing seventy houses, is three miles in the interior, on the Rhinebeck flats, a pleasant tract, and easy soil for cultivation. For several miles above Rhinebeck the soil and aspect is rather uninviting, but on the west shore we are constantly regaled with the scenery of the Catskills as we rapidly advance, until we reach the *lower landing of Red Hook*, ninety-eight miles from New-York, with the handsome residence of *Capt. Lowndes Brown* near the river, and of *Gen. Armstrong* further in the rear, on the hill; and in a short distance north of the dock is that of *John R. Livingston, Esq.* and opposite the Magdalen Island of *Dr. Martin*, are also successively those of the late

Maj. Gen. Montgomery, John C. Stevens, R. S. Livingston, and J. C. Montgomery, Esqrs. and of Philip Livingston, Esq. on the point of Saw Kill Creek.

The white speck seen for several miles on the Catskill, is the famous mountain house, two thousand five hundred feet in elevation above the Hudson.

Glasgow village, in Ulster County, on the west, is ninety nine miles from New-York, abreast of the upper of the Magdalen Islands.

One hundred miles from New-York, and forty-four from Albany, we arrive at the *Redhook upper landing* on the east, and the delightful residences of Robert Tillotson, Esq. John Swift Livingston, Esq. and Mr. Elmendorff, together with a number of other houses, and a hotel; but the principal settlement is five miles to the east, on the main post-road from north to south. Observe that in this near vicinity is *Redhook* post-office, *Redhook landing* post-office, and *Upper Redhook* post-office, as this is apt to create confusion in mailing letters.

Esopus Creek, as it is termed on the maps, but richly deserving the name of *river*, comes into the Hudson on the west shore, nearly opposite the landing last mentioned. It rises in the north-west part of Ulster county, has a south-east and then a north-east course past *Kingston*, and then nearly north to SAUGERTIES village, its entire length being sixty miles, with much rich land on its margin, and has a heavy water power concentrated within four miles of its mouth, principally belonging to *Henry Barclay*, Esq. of Ury, the county seat so named, opposite upper Redhook.

Few manufacturing villages in the Northern States are equal to *Saugerties*, or have a more solid basis of prosperity, a never-failing water power, derived from the southern slope of the lofty Catskills, united with ample capital, judiciously directed in the manufacture of paper, cottons, woollens, bar-iron, white lead, and many others. The principal fall at this village is fifty feet in height, formed by the union of art and nature, so directed as to back the water for three miles, thus creating a lovely lake to within a mile or so of the great falls of *Esopus*, and a combination of attractive scenery, highly pleasing to the traveler of taste, and to the citizens from the south desiring a residence for the summer months. There are steam boats and tow-boats belonging to this place, and every facility for reaching this desirable village, and enjoying the rides among the stupendous ghauts, or deep gorges of the

Catskills, that within ten to fifteen miles attain their greatest elevation and beauty, and are beheld with the most impressive effect. The population of Saugerties is four thousand.

The *Manor of Livingston*, in 1684-5-6, was granted by the king of England to Robert Livingston, a member of his privy council, and embraced a front of ten miles and a half on the Hudson, twenty and a half miles back inland, and fourteen on the eastern border, making two hundred and eighty-eight square miles: with baronial privileges, a tract equal to a small German principality. It is at present owned by several heirs of the original proprietors, (with the exception of Germantown, a tract of six thousand acres, conveyed in 1710, by an arrangement with Queen Anne, to a number of Palatines who had served in her armies in Germany,) and now forms the townships of Clermont, Livingston, Taghkanick, Ancram, and Germantown.

The old Livingston manor-house is situated on the east-bank of the Hudson, near Rolef Jansen's, or *Ancram* Creek, ten miles above Redhook upper landing; but the splendid residences of Robert L. Livingston and Edward P. Livingston, Esqrs. the sons of the late chancellor Livingston, (minister to France, who made the negociation for the purchase of Louisiana with Napoleon, for fifteen millions of dollars,) are situated nearly opposite to Saugerties, and their diversified grounds and lawns, that command the finest scenery on the Hudson, extend for miles on the borders of the river, and are in every respect princely abodes. This family are, and have always been on the popular side in political matters, and in unison with the old republican party, and of high estimation in the national and state governments.

Bristol, on the west shore, is a small village and landing for sloops, two miles above Saugerties; and opposite, in the middle of the river, begins a series of flats, or low mud islands, that extend up for two or three miles, past Trumpores landing, the next above Bristol. *Oak Hill*, the residence of Harman Livingston, Esq. next is seen on the east shore, conspicuously on the hill south of the landing, and the convenient dock and warehouse for storing country produce; and on the opposite shore, as we draw near the landing, we pass a creek with a very serpentine channel winding through the marsh and soon after arrive at

Catskill,

on the west shore, one hundred and eleven miles from New-York. This has long been an important landing-place for visitors to the great hotel on the *table rock* of the Catskills, known as the *Pine Orchard*, and frequented by thousands of travelers. Carriages are always in waiting on the dock to accommodate those that wish to ascend. Travelers can proceed by the rail-road to *Canajoharie*, a town on the Erie Canal and banks of the Mohawk River, about seventy miles in a north-west direction up the valley of the Catskill river, through Green and Schoharie counties, and over and along the north-eastern slopes of the mountains, saving, perhaps, a little time and distance, but losing the view of Hudson, Albany, and Troy, and of the delightful rail-road route along the Mohawk, from Schenectady to the intersection of Canajoharie.

Stages for the west leave Catskill daily for Binghamton, Owego, and Ithaca, and thence down the Cayuga Lake for forty miles, and by stage, canal, or rail road, to Geneva, Canandaigua, Rochester, Lockport, Lewistown, or Buffalo.

Besides the view from the table rock before alluded to, there are other inducements for travelers disposed for a time to seek out gratification and amusement, to visit the falls and other spots that the magic touches of Cole the artist have brought to the public admiration; and as coaches run regularly to and from the mountain, and are so adjusted as to meet the steam-boats at various hours, and also to enable the public to visit the different falls, there is every facility afforded the traveler; the price is one dollar to ascend to the mountain house—the time required, about four hours, distance twelve miles—but half the time suffices to return. The road for nine miles from the landing is uneven, and for the last three, a steep ascent in a zig-zag course, doubling on the track, that soon places the traveler in a peculiar position, rather trying to the nerves of the timid.

The *Clove road* that ascends the Catskills, a mile or two south of the road to the Pine Orchard, should by all means be seen as one of the wonders of the vicinity. It enters upon the ascent where the Kauterskill emerges into the light of day, from the deep and overshadowed ravine, where the raging

and force of the tumultuous waters have thrown large masses of rock into every imaginable and confused form, pile on pile, among which, the tumbling waters are sometimes seen bursting forth from narrow channels, or crevices, or swelling and boiling up from some syphon or upper source, or forming cascades of an endless variety of forms, and giving forth sounds of its raging and uncontrolled power, that, as the traveler follows up the arduous, and endless, and truly fatiguing ascent, becomes less and less audible, as the road takes the other side of the gorge, by crossing a rude bridge.

Several tremendous precipices of sandstone rock, of several hundred feet in perpendicular height, strike one with awe and delight,—and when nearly at the end of the ascent, the traveler will pause and look back to the east, through the narrow vista of the towering rocky masses of the mountain on either hand, at a plunging and rapid sweep of the eye, at the distant fields and farms far down in the vale below, and beyond the Hudson, on the east shore, well in the interior, towards the Massachusetts and Connecticut lines, the diversified colors of the cleared and cultivated lands, green lots, and the yellow harvest ripening for the sickle and the scythe, with all the hues of the fading distance, and at the deep and full green of the American forest predominating over the landscape, the whole presented at such a visual angle and as distinctly exhibited in its details, as a vast map, or page, in the sublime volume of nature.

The entire view, from the twilight dimness of objects in the gorge, and the concentration of the eager gaze of the beholder, and the brilliant lighting up of the remoter squares and divisions of the farms, dwindled into diminutive size at the end of this grand gallery of nature, seems of itself to be a perfect picture, set with a most gigantic and appropriate frame, and underneath the blue canopy of the o'er-arching expanse of heaven, is in admirable keeping and harmony. When resuming the advance, and attaining to the summit of the *gap*, in a short distance there is a clearing and a log-house or two, and you can begin your view westward; the extreme summit of the round top still appears to be at a toilsome distance. The residents near this spot are accustomed to conduct up those seeking their aid to attain the crowning summit of the Catskills, three thousand eight hundred and fifty-six feet high. While here, get the guides to conduct you to the ravine near by, where the western branch

of the Kauterskill presents a most beautiful cascade into the deep and narrow amphitheatrical walls of a secluded receptacle, hollowed out and excavated into pools or reservoirs, most admirable for a pure clear bath, where nought but a small opening like a sky-light admits a sufficiency of exposure to exhibit the exquisite drapery that clothes the steep sides and the encircling rim or verge of this sanctuary of nature, that must be sought and won with considerable toil and muscular exertion, and that so richly repays the explorer. This is one among a number of the hitherto secret and hidden beauties of nature, that man has seldom beheld in this portion of the mountain; others exist farther to the interior.

A week or a month of the long days in June, July, or August, will not exhaust the resources of pleasure, but a bare day or two is but seldom awarded, and that is given merely to the Pine Orchard and the Kauterskill, that we shall now describe, premising that the writer once visited them from below, by taking a *lateral* road, on the north of Clove Road, excavated for the red paint or pigment, the oxide of iron, and clambering up the steep ravine, from crag to crag, and over the dashing brook, and slippery trunks of fallen trees, or moss-covered rocks, until the position was at length attained, that presents the two leaps of the upper Kauterskill falls in one upward view.

The hotel on the table rock was built by the citizens of Catskill, and cost twenty-two thousand dollars; it is one hundred and forty feet in length, four stories high, with a piazza extending across the front, and a colonnade. There are about six acres of naked rock surface around the hotel, with ample room for outbuildings. The hotel is placed at a safe distance from the verge of the sheer descent of the precipice, to allow coaches to draw or drive up in front, to deliver and receive passengers, and for visitors to promenade about, and peer over the dizzy, toppling crags, into the deep valley under the eye of the spectator, here at an altitude of two thousand five hundred feet above the Hudson, and fifteen hundred above the open meadow at the immediate base of the precipitous descent. The Hudson river appears distinctly at intervals, for forty or fifty miles, dotted over with numerous islands, and the white sails of the river craft, and the steamers, with their long trains and curling volumes of smoke, that may be easily distinguished by the naked eye, urging their power-

ful course over the placid surface of the river, that in the morning sun gleams brilliantly and dazzles the eye with its effulgence. The cities of Catskill, Hudson, and Poughkeepsie also are plainly seen, and minor towns, with their distant village spires. The beholder is impressed at once with the predominance of the native forest trees, and the deep verdure of their foliage, that yet rules over the largest extent of the surface of old mother earth, in the entire length and breadth of the land, with a scattering of farms, and cleared lands, and evidences of the industry of man. The eastern bank of the Hudson, and the entire sweep of the landscape, far retreating into the interior, towards Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, embracing one hundred miles from north to south, and fifty miles from east to west, is completely unfolded to the view, developing a large portion of the Hudson river valley, and presented at the least angle of inclination or slope, towards us, environed with a splendid outline or frame of mountains, with the *Taughkannock peak*, indicating the north-west corner of Connecticut, near the New-York and Massachusetts line, in the south-east,—the well recognized, elevated sierra of *Saddle Mountain*, near Williamstown, in Massachusetts, to the north-east, and some prominent peaks of the Green Mountains in Vermont, on the extreme north or left; and on the right or south, we distinguish the blue outline of the Fishkill range, and of the highlands beyond Newburgh. The coup d'œil is grand,—the o'ertopping ridges behind the hotel, on the south-west, west, and north-west, bound the view to a limited extent, but are themselves objects of great magnificence, and are yet seen in all their pristine, or native wildness, rudeness, &c. The small peak that rises on the south, near by, is about one hundred and fifty feet higher than the hotel, and is a geological study of itself, composed of pudding-stone, sand-stone, &c. and gives an extension to the view towards Albany, and a bird's-eye view of the table rock and hotel.

The remains of the Windham turnpike, made some twenty or thirty years since, across this mountain, may be followed towards the west, passing the two *lakes* that are two thousand feet above tide water, one mile long, and form the cascade of the Kauterskill Falls, that will now be described:—the lakes are repulsive in their aspect, the one on the north, with broad lobed-leaved aquatic plants floating on the surface, and bordered by tangled shrubbery,—but the other has a cleaner margin, and the waters of both are connected by a brook

passing under the bridge. The supply of water is small, and preserved with care, and let off for hire, to increase the mass of the fall when a party of strangers arrives. Following a winding, stumpy, rugged, and at times muddy road, for about a mile through the woods to the south-west, we arrive at an opening of six hundred feet in circumference, that yawns before us to a profound depth, and arrests our progress by its deep semi-circular or amphitheatrical aperture or form, open only towards the south or south-west, and exposing the deep ravine, richly clothed round with trees, and varied with foliage of different colors, retreating steeply down a quarter of a mile or more towards the *clove road*, and from the foot of the ravine west of the *clove*, rises in one majestic curtain or slope, extending a mile or two heavenward, the full body of the vast *round top*, that fills an angle of thirty or forty degrees above the level of the eye of the beholder, filling him with admiration at the noble grandeur of the effect. The run, or outlet that discharges the water of the two small lakes, rushes across the mass of sand-stone composing the precipice, and leaps into the gulf; and, exhausting itself in foam and spray, falls upon the debris one hundred and seventy-five feet, is again collected on the floor of the rock, and within a short distance takes another plunge of seventy-five feet, and follows the dark, and over-arched, and deeply-shaded depth and windings of the ravine to the valley below.

After studying this grouping of the mountains and ravine from above, the traveler should by all means follow the circuitous path that will conduct him down about ninety feet, and then take a horizontal direction, passing under the rock into a semi-cave behind the water-fall, with the vast rock above that supports the falling sheet of water, and impends over as the stooping and groping explorer walks on the crumbled debris of the red rock, while the water is falling twenty or thirty feet clear of the standing-place, and forms a curtain of snowy spray in front of this deep recess, that serves partly to veil the deep blue sky, and adds much to the charms of this fearful and wonderful place; even the rainbow at certain times appears from above, floating on the bosom of the mists of the falling spray for a moment, vanishing and circling away. Those that omit to view this fall from below lose much that will cause regret.

The invigorating pure air that is inhaled at the mountain house, and the exhilarating effect of the various excursions

and promenades that are usually taken while there, have braced up and restored to health many an invalid that no other means could have recruited.

Not the least of the gratifications derived by an observant person, or a lover of nature, from a visit to this mountain eyrie, the most remarkable and elevated in the United States, are the changes in the atmosphere, produced by clouds, fogs, thunder-storms, and the charming and sublime shadows and lights passing rapidly over the plain; also the appearances produced by the early morning sun, or evening twilight, or the softer radiance of full moon, or by the clearing off and rising of the morning mist from the plains below; or what is still better, to be so fortunate as to witness the gathering of a heavy thunder-storm, and to see the lowering volumes of dark vapors come sweeping over the western crest of the mountain, bringing in its train the forked lightning, the loud thunder, and the *pelting hail, shaking the firm foundations* and reverberating among the echoes of the everlasting hills; and then to see, as the writer has done, the surcharged clouds subsiding and sinking into the valley, and then again to see the bright flash, and hear the roar of the storm that is raging beneath your feet, while over your zenith all is clear and calm as a summer's morning, and you see beyond the range of the storm, at ten, twenty, or forty miles distance, the clear powerful rays of the sun pouring with unmitigated intensity upon a tract parched with drought; and then to finish and grace the scene, as the atmosphere is clearing away, pillars of rainbow-hues are seen in the east on the face of the retreating cloud, and all is hushed, and the refreshed face of nature once more assumes its wonted appearance. A traveler in Europe present at the time, acknowledged that a scene equal to that in sublimity had only once gratified him,—Mont Blanc at sun-set.

From Catskill we find our boat shaping its course to the north-east, past a large marshy island, and approaching a bend of the river near the foot of *Mount Merino* on the east shore. After rounding the hill, the city of Hudson appears before us, at one hundred and sixteen miles from New-York, and twenty-eight from Albany, with its lofty ware-houses at the landing, and ships, steam-boats, and sloops, giving evidence of capital and enterprize that here exist, and that has sent out many ships on distant whaling voyages to the south seas. The city is principally on the summit of the hill, sixty feet above the

landing, and is seen to better advantage when the steam-boat is two or three miles out in the river. There are seven thousand inhabitants in Hudson, and it is the capital of Columbia County, and a port of entry and the head of ship navigation for large vessels. A branch rail-road extends across this State and Massachusetts to Boston, and travelers intending to visit the *Shaker Village at New Lebanon*, thirty miles to the northeast, will land here, and proceed in the rail-road cars, at seven o'clock in the morning, or in private conveyances by applying at the inns.

There is considerable water-power in the neighborhood, and much of manufacturing industry near Hudson. Its settlement commenced in 1784, by Thomas and Seth Jenkins, of Providence, and twenty-eight others, and it had a most rapid growth for a time, too rapid, in fact, to last, for in two years it had fifteen hundred inhabitants, and one hundred and fifty dwelling houses. *Prospect Hill* is at the east of *Warren-street*, that has a gentle ascent of one mile, and terminates in a public square, academy, water-works, &c. Other streets are laid out parallel, and the lots are fifty by one hundred twenty feet. It is compact near the river. There are several churches, banks, jail, court-house, &c. Lead ores have been found here.

Athens, on the west shore opposite to Hudson, is in Greene County, and has some genteel private residences, and some participation in the river business and sloop navigation, &c. and communicates with its rival by a canal cut through the mud flat, to avoid a circuit, and boats pass to and fro.

Four miles above Hudson on the east, *Kinderhook Creek*, or *Abraham's Creek*, alias *Claverack Creek*, comes in, and at its mouth there are cotton factories, paper mills, &c. and a peculiarity in the landscape of most striking appearance; and opposite is a prominent high rocky point, one hundred and twenty miles from New-York, called *Four Mile Point*, and said to be the actual head of ship navigation. The retrospective view down the river from this towards Hudson is truly fine, with Mounts *Merino*, *Bancroft*, and *Prospect* in the background, or as adjuncts. The shoals and obstructions from this to Albany are increasing every year, in spite of the puny efforts of man to counteract, and eventually, measures will have to be adopted to extend the Erie Canal thus far.

Staats Point is next passed on the east above the Creek, and *Bennett's Point and Island*, and in one mile, *Little Nutter Hook*, and *Nutter Hook*; and across to west shore *Coxackie*

landing, and three islands, (village one mile back,) one hundred and twenty-three miles from New-York, and an important, bustling little place, with sloops, ship-yards, or rather for building steam, canal, and tow-boats, and a hauling-up place. Three hundred feet above the Hudson, is a boulder of Hypersthene, of one hundred tons, like those in the dykes in Essex County.

Stuyvesant or *Kinderhook* landing, is on the east, (*Kinderhook* five miles east,) at the mouth of *Coxackie Creek*, one hundred and twenty-five miles from New-York.

Kinderhook was settled by the Dutch and Swedes, and the name originates from Children's comer or point, so called from the number of children belonging to a Swedish family that anciently lived on a point of land half a mile above the upper landing. This is said to have been the birth-place of M. Van Buren, the President of the United States.

Many Islands occur from here to Albany and Waterford, causing the channel to be very crooked and variable, but adding to the beauty of the trip.

New Baltimore, one hundred and twenty-nine miles, has a dock and store-house, and one sloop to New-York once a week. The water is eleven feet deep; to this place tide rises three to four and a half feet.

Hannekai's Kill, or *Cock Crowing Creek*, is on the west side, opposite a group of islands.

Coeymans, and *Coeymans Kill*, one hundred and thirty-two miles, is in Albany County, and evidently an ancient and venerable place, with its store-houses, mills, &c.

Schodack, one hundred and thirty-five miles, village and landing in Rensselaer County.

Castleton, one hundred and thirty-six miles; shoalest water from New-Baltimore to this, three and a half to seven feet, and four and a half to five and a half to Albany; tide rises two to four feet high.

Vlamans Kill, west side, and *Winnes pier and bar*.

Papacane Creek, east side.

Hoke Bergh, or high hill, Mr. J. B. Staats, five miles from Albany. *Van Wies Point*, west.

Prospect Hill, east, seat of late E. C. Genet, minister from France in 1798. The eastern slopes of the islands facing the *overslaugh* are paved with stone to low water, to prevent abrasion by the current, and a dam at the north point is to force the water in one channel, and increase the velocity, and re-

vent the bar that detains vessels at low water. Hitherto the United States have devoted large sums to counteract this evil, but it recurs and fills up, even if scoured out by a machine.

Four miles above this is *Albany* in plain sight, and after passing along an island that intervenes between the mouth of the *Norman's Kill*, and *Cuyler's Bar*, and Van Rensselaer's Mills, and *Greenbush*, on the east shore, we arrive at

Albany,

one hundred and forty-four miles from New-York, in N. Lat. $42^{\circ} 39'$, W. Long. $73^{\circ} 13'$. The Legislature of the State here assembles in the Capitol or State House, at the head of State-street, one hundred and thirty feet above the river. From the observatory on the top of this edifice is one of the finest views in this State, and accessible to all strangers. Four Ionic columns of marble, thirty-three feet high, ornament the portico.

The principal objects of attraction the city presents, are its ancient and modern buildings, and the public works of the State, the *Erie and Champlain Canal*, and the great *Canal Basin*. The ancient Dutch buildings, of which some are judiciously permitted to remain in good order, as relics of the olden time, by their owners, must be sought for in Pearl-street, north of State, and in streets near the river. The residence of the late Governor De Witt Clinton, and the Female School, also in Pearl-street, are pointed out to strangers.

The *Albany Academy*, of red sandstone, also fronts on the square north of the Capitol, and cost one hundred thousand dollars, and is occupied in part by the Albany Institute or Lyceum.

The *City Hall*, also fronting on the Capitol square on the east side, is a showy building of white marble, hewed out by the State-prison convicts of Sing Sing, and is distinguished above all other edifices in America by its gilded dome, like the Invalides at Paris, and has a truly dazzling effect,—this is the *court* building, and fitted for County purposes.

An Exchange is now going up at the foot of State-street, and also fronting on Market.

There are twenty-two churches for all denominations; a *Theatre*, but poorly sustained; a *Museum* in a semi-elliptical building, that is of an elegant and striking appearance, corner

of State and Market-streets, and is worthy of a visit, and also the terrace on the top.

The *Law Buildings*, corner of South, Market, and Beaver, and the South Dutch Church in Beaver and Hudson-streets, with its noble portico of free-stone and neatly arranged grounds, also the Churches, the Academies, City Library and Reading-room, &c. are all objects worthy of attention to those that have time to study the taste of the people.

Stanwix Hall, of the eastern granite, with its fine dome, cannot but be admired.

The banking-houses, five in number, are in State-street, but are plain, decent edifices. The State-House, for records, and for the use of the Treasurer, Secretary of State, Surveyor General, Register, Adjutant General, Chancellor, &c. is a plain fire-proof brick building, solid and substantial.

The route by *Erie Canal* occupies one day and a half. People that value their time, avoid that route, though along the Mohawk and Little Falls it is not excelled by any other. Both are given in full, to enable the traveler to make his selection.

Albany contains about thirty-five thousand inhabitants, was founded in 1610, after H. Hudson had sailed up the river to the mouth of the Mohawk and returned to Holland, when a fort and lodgment was effected on an island below, in 1614, and found to be too much exposed to floods, ice, &c. and abandoned three years after, and Fort Orange erected, on or near the Fort Orange Hotel, in South Market-street.

The English captured New-York in 1664, when this place then received from its new masters the present name, after the Duke of York and Albany, the proprietor. It had a royal charter in 1686 under Dongan, and was anciently surrounded by a stockade as a defence against Indians, and it has always been an important and central military position, both in the Indian and French wars; and its connection with the Erie Canal, and the rail-road leading to the west, have recently given it a further impulse that must continue, as all the travel from the Eastern States must pass its portals.

The depôt of the *Mohawk and Hudson Rail-road*, from Albany to Schenectady, is found at 115 State-street, opposite Congress Hall, near the top of the hill and public square. Seats are there secured for Utica, price three dollars and seventy-five cents—through in four hours—ninety-six miles.

This *Rail-road*, extending fifteen miles from Albany to Schenectady, across a sandy plain covered with pines and

shrubbery, with an inclined plane at each end, cost eight or nine hundred thousand dollars, and the *Saratoga and Schenectady Rail-road*, a continuation of the preceding, and leading to Ballston and Saratoga Springs, and twenty-one miles long, cost only two hundred and ninety-seven thousand two hundred and thirty-seven dollars, or not half the amount of the former, and almost half as long again; began in 1831, and finished in 1832. Another route to reach the Springs in the shortest possible time, is to proceed on to Troy, and take the rail-road from thence leading over to the islands at the mouth of the Mohawk, and over the branch of the delta of the Mohawk to Waterford, and thence to Ballston,—twenty-five miles, and a pleasant route.

The *Packet-boats* do not run as formerly on the canal between Albany and Schenectady, as from passing through twenty-seven locks in the twenty-eight and a half miles, and its consuming twelve hours, it became unpopular, and was given up, but the line or freight-boats take passengers if desired. Those wishing to take passage in the canal-boats that leave Schenectady for the west in the morning or afternoon, take cars or coaches at Albany on the arrival of the boats from New-York, and are at Schenectady in time.

For Troy, there are stages leaving State, corner of Market-street, every half hour, price one shilling, besides small steam boats that leave on the arrival of the great ones from New-York.

Stages leave daily for Ballston and Saratoga Springs, at six, nine, and twelve in the forenoon, and at two, three, and five in the afternoon; and for Whitehall daily, to meet the boat on Lake Champlain, that runs to St. John's, and by rail-road to La Prairie, and on the St. Lawrence to Montreal. Also, for New Haven in a day and a half, via Litchfield daily, one o'clock afternoon.

For Hartford in a day, via Sheffield and Norfolk daily, one in morning.

For Lebanon Springs, via Nassau, at nine in forenoon, twenty-five miles.

For Montreal in three days, at two o'clock morning.

For Boston in two days or less, via Lebanon, Pittsfield, Northampton, and Worcester.

Stage Offices corner of State and Market, under the Museum, and on the corner of Hamilton and Market-streets.

Grand Route to the West,

by rail-road from Albany to Schenectady (the Springs,) Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, Rochester, Lewistown, Batavia, Buffalo, and Niagara Falls.

The line of the Mohawk and Hudson Rail-road at its commencement, is in plain view, seen from the steam-boat, on the west bank of the Hudson, near the southern confines of the city, where is the main depôt for the *freight-cars*, that are taken up the inclined plane by a stationary engine to the summit. Passengers for the Utica, and Ballston, and Saratoga rail-roads, will purchase their tickets at the depôt office, 115 State-street, and will be despatched punctually at eight o'clock. Price through to Utica, three dollars and seventy-five cents, or to Schenectady, seventy-five cents, or to the Springs, one dollar and fifty cents.

Horse-power is used to drag each car, the moment passengers arrive sufficient to fill one, out to the head of State-street, where the locomotive engine is in waiting, and when the entire train is ready, the road is soon passed in a direct line for twelve miles through a sterile, sandy tract, to Schenectady, nearly on a level. The iron plates rest on wooden rails bedded on stone. This has no connection, by charter, with the Utica road. Some deep sand excavations and embankments are passed, and also the farm and nursery of Jesse Buel, and Wilson and Buel, three miles from Albany. The farm covers about eighty acres, and the nursery twelve or fifteen. Mr. Buel is extensively known as the editor of the *Cultivator*, a monthly quarto paper at fifty cents a year, and for his entire devotion to the interests of agriculture and horticulture. The successful results of his labors in these respects are here beneficially exemplified. His catalogues and publications are to be seen in the Albany book-stores. Mr. Buel has been the whig candidate for Governor of the State, but did not succeed.

Arriving at the inclined plane overlooking Schenectady and the valley of the Mohawk, with the grand Erie Canal at the foot of the hill, the traveler is three hundred and thirty-five feet above tide-water at Albany, (there are twenty-seven canal locks between Albany and Schenectady, rise two hundred and twenty-seven feet,) one hundred and eight feet descent of the plane in half a mile. The first glance from this elevation is very pleasing ; but a few moments are allowed the passengers, who

are let down in the customary manner, and pass by the capacious depôts and car-repositories on the plain, here in close proximity to the Erie Canal, Mohawk River, &c. &c. Passing through the city of Schenectady, this route unites with the rail-road that extends to *Ballston*, fifteen miles from Albany, and *Saratoga Springs*, six and a half miles. (For the route to the Springs via *Troy*, see p. 44.)

Schenectady,

fifteen miles from Albany, contains about five thousand five hundred inhabitants, exclusive of the two hundred students attached to *Union College*, and is well placed near the *Mohawk* River. It was surprised and burnt by the French Canadians and Indians, the eighth of February, 1690, and the inhabitants perished in cold blood, or were made captives; few escaped in the snow to Albany. In 1748 another massacre took place of seventy inhabitants, and in 1819 one hundred and seventy houses were burnt. There is a good hotel on the main-street. The dreary old sandy road, horridly paved with large stones, that formerly was dreaded, and required four or five hours of stage-driving for the fifteen miles to Albany, is now a matter of history with the old traveler, in contrast with existing facilities, and the same may be said with many other routes. There are two banks, six churches, a City Hall, &c. and it is an old settlement. Many mills, and sites for hydraulic works, are near the town.

The Mohawk river is crossed by a bridge three hundred yards long, and an embankment of one thousand three hundred and twenty yards, when the roads diverge, that for *Utica* to the west, and for the Springs to the north-east.

Union College may be advantageously seen while passing the bridge, on the right hand or south side of the Mohawk, on a gentle ascent, and displays two ranges of white buildings, each two hundred feet long, and four stories high, of brick; built from the proceeds of a State lottery in 1814. It has a president, (Dr. Nott,) several professors, lecturers, and tutors, a register, &c. a library of ten thousand volumes, a museum, and chemical and philosophical apparatus: two hundred and fifty students.

Con-nugh-harie-gugh-harie, or a great multitude collected together, was the Indian name of this place, and the tribe of

Mohawks, it is well known, that had their council-fires in this valley, could muster their thousands, and strike terror into their enemies; (see Colden's History of Five Nations.) The Indian name of *Schagh-nack-taa-da*, or beyond the pine plains, was applied to Albany. A few of the old Dutch buildings yet remain, and also a bridge over the Mohawk, nine hundred and ninety-seven feet long, (erected by Burr, noted in former days as a bridge builder.) There are rich and extensive flats in the vicinity.

The Utica and Schenectady Rail-road

was begun in 1834, and finished in 1836-7; length seventy-eight miles, cost one million six hundred thousand dollars, with engines, cars, &c. It is good stock, and pays well. The road is intended for a double track, and is level and favorable, having but one grade over sixteen feet of ascent per mile.

After leaving the branch road to the Springs, the main road adheres to the north bank of the Mohawk for seventy-four miles, and no line of rail-road could be more happily devised, or ably and triumphantly achieved than this, in its entire course.

Amsterdam, sixteen miles from Schenectady, and sixty-two from Utica, is a small village, and has a run of watering and manufacturing power, (Chuctanunda Creek, a fine mill-stream from Saratoga County, falls one hundred and twenty feet, one hundred rods from its mouth near by,) and was the residence of the Johnson family before the Revolutionary war, Col. Guy, Sir William, and Sir John, all stanch and consistent loyalists to their king. The stone house, one mile from the village, on the south side of the rail-road, was built by Col. Guy Johnson, and the one a mile onward was occupied by Sir John, all famous in the colonial history.

A bridge extends across to the south side of the Mohawk in Florida, and if the cars breathe a minute or two, or take in water, the traveler can spring out and enter the restaurateurs for hot coffee and refreshments, that opportunely occur at intervals of about twenty miles. Four miles onward at Tribe's hill, observe at the south side of the Mohawk river, and east side of the *Schoharie* Creek, the site of old Fort Hunter, Queen Anne's Chapel, and the old Mohawk Castle, famous in our

early history. There also are some rude Indian paintings, or daubs of human figures on the rocks forming the banks of the Mohawk here.

The outlet of the Schoharie Kill, that rises on the northern slopes of the Catskills, and the canal dam and bridge or tow-path across, together with the entire valley and fore-ground, is a combination of pleasing features of art and nature.

Caughnawaga, twenty-four miles from Schenectady, and fifty-two from Utica, and four miles from Johnstown, thirty-nine from Albany, was an Indian village, and a principal town of the Mohawks, and signifies a coffin, from there being in the river opposite that place a large black stone. The present race of inhabitants are descended from Scotch, Dutch, German, and eastern or Yankees. The *Hall* erected by Sir William Johnson in 1773, and occupied till his death, was four and three-quarter miles from this to the north, and on his farm was fought a battle by the Americans under Col. Willett, and the Indians and their allies, the twenty-fifth October, 1781. Most persons recollect Sir William Johnson's adroit reply to an Indian dream, in allusion to the fine red cloth and lace cloak that the Indian chief unluckily dreamed that Sir William had presented to him, and that Sir William gave without hesitation; but soon after, HE had his dream, that the Indian had given him a large tract of rich land, that the Mohawk gave up with equal liberality, but said that he should not dream again with the honorable baronet.

Fonda, a short distance from the previous place, has the county buildings, and a fine new court-house is erected. The county-seat has recently been transferred here from Johnstown, as the county of Montgomery also extends south of the Mohawk to Schoharie and Otsego. The church at Johnstown, built by Sir William, and containing his remains, was burnt in 1836.

The *Nose*, thirty miles from Schenectady, is another protuberance of St. Anthony, that like its namesake on the Hudson, before described, see p. 18, here interposes an obstruction from a high spur coming down from the north, or right hand, that required considerable *wrenching* or blasting, to admit of the rail-road, and give sufficient right of way for the modern improvements.

Palatine Bridge, thirty-five miles from Schenectady, on the south side of the river is *Canajoharie* and the rail-road to Catskill, seventy miles.

A corn-mill constructed by the Indians of a circular hole in

the rock, into which was fitted a large stone to grind their corn, formerly existed here above the nose, and gave the name of Bread Creek to the small stream.

From Canajoharie to Cherry Valley are stages.

Three miles west of Palatine Bridge, we are near *Fort Plain*, and Sharon Sulphur Springs on the opposite shore, where Capt. Butler, from his bloody visit to Cherry Valley, came and tomahawked the settlers at this remote frontier post.

Four miles west of Palatine Bridge we cross the *East Canada Creek*, on the line between Montgomery and Herkimer Counties, (thirty-nine from Schenectady,) and in six miles arrive at *Little Falls*, (fifty-seven miles from Schenectady, and twenty-one from Utica,) and in three miles pass Gen. Herkimer's grave on the south side of the river, near a brick house on a hill.

Fall Hill is five hundred and eighteen feet above the canal, and seven hundred and twelve above tide in the Hudson, and is a spur that puts off to the north-west from the Catskill range, and is of granite and lime-stone intermixed. Vale half a mile wide. A dam of fifty feet here would back the water to Oneida Lake. The cavities and water-worn rocks indicate a barrier formerly at this spot.

As we draw near to the opening in the mountains, or as we approach the *Little Falls*, the contour of the scene becomes more impressive; the hills on the opposing sides converge, restricting the river and the Erie Canal on the south, and the rail-road and the old turnpike on the north to the narrowest possible limits, and bringing them all under the eye of the visiter. The excavations in the solid rock for the purposes of the rail-road, almost equal those made for the canal, and claim our admiration and approval, both for the remarkable facilities allotted by nature in the formation of this celebrated pass or gap on the Mohawk, (itself a prolonged deep valley or pass, extending exactly in the desired course for a hundred miles, thus admitting, side by side, a canal and road on the south side of the river, and the rail-road and turnpike on the other, leaving, in fact, very little use for the river, except to yield its waters to fill the canal; thus exemplifying the reply of Brindley, the engineer, who, when asked his opinion as to the use of rivers, replied, "to feed navigable canals,") and also for the boldness and originality of the heads that conceived, and those that planned and executed, in an incredibly short period, the various massive and enduring works of art that

are here concentrated, and brought into prominent relief before and around us.

The eight old locks and excavations, on a puny scale, of the "Western Inland Lock Navigation Company," made forty years since, to obviate the obstructions and render navigable the Mohawk River through to the Oneida Lake, are here seen amid the rocks and rapids, as a memorial of the earliest attempt made in this State to introduce canal navigation; but this did not remunerate the projectors well, and when the Erie Canal was effected, the State finally paid one hundred thousand dollars, to satisfy the claims of the stockholders in the old concern, (about one fifth part of their expenditures.) There are at this village one hundred and fifty houses, a church or two, a bank, and the whole has a substantial appearance.

The traveler on the rail-road cannot do justice to the immense extent of the public works and expenditures here exhibited to him by the State of New-York, and by the Railroad Company, in merely giving a bird's-eye view as he flies rapidly along, at the general and combined effect; for here are not only locks, canals, rail-roads, and other roads, but also viaducts, aqueducts, water-falls, race-ways, mills, machinery, and a noble stream urging its triumphant and foaming path over its rugged bed in the very midst, and giving vast life, vigor, and animation to the assemblage of objects, but the face of the hill, also, is full of memorials of the changes that time and the elements have wrought out on the rocks in the lapse of ages, that to a geologist, or man of science, will be replete with interesting recollections.

For several miles the beetling and rocky precipices encroach very closely upon the scanty line of road, and barely admit of a joint use of the space for the three-fold purpose of the canal, river, and roads. The beautiful *Aqueduct* that spans over the entire volume of the Mohawk, that is here compressed into its narrowest limits, rests on two arches of fifty, and one of seventy feet, and thus forms a navigable feeder for the canal, one hundred and seventy feet long, and a link between the north and south shore. It is also a leading feature in the picture, and the curious traveler that is not satisfied with a transient and hasty glance, can leave the car to explore around for a few hours in this highly interesting region, and proceed in the next train. Cross by the railing on the side of the aqueduct and descend on the stone bridge, and take a view of the central arch with the basin beneath, and

the chutes that come pouring down, and then scramble up to the top of the mountain to catch a view of the Mohawk valley for twenty or thirty miles, and examine the *five locks*, and the foundations of the canal, skirted by the deep and rapid river, and the huge rocks and mountain profiles.

The *long level of seventy miles* on the Erie Canal, without a lock, commences at number fifty-three, and extends on through Utica, Whitestown, Rome, Verona, Lenox, Sullivan, Manlius, Lodi, Salina, to *Syracuse*, Onondaga County. This comprised the easiest portion of the canal, and was the first finished in 1817.

There will be no more *mountain scenery* compared to this, for the traveler to behold, for several hundred miles west, unless he quits or diverges from the beaten track; but there may be equally gratifying or varied scenes.

The *Gulf Bridge* is a span of one arch of one hundred and sixty feet wide, and fifty above the stream, that occasionally discharges a very heavy body of water collected among the mountains and wild lands north of the Mohawk. In this vicinity much labor and expense was incurred by blasting rocks and forming embankments.

In the township of Herkimer we bid adieu to the rough and rocky features around the Little Falls, and the road immediately enters upon a more sylvan scene, still adhering to the vicinity of the river, that is prettily skirted with dwarf trees and shrubs, and is seen meandering throughout for *seven miles* across the celebrated *German Flats*, a most fertile tract; but during the war of 1756 between the English and French, the Canadians and savages invaded this peaceful vale, to kill, burn, and destroy. The road then passes over *West Canada Creek* (Trenton Falls being a few miles north, see p. 53) by a good bridge, and in half a mile we are at *Herkimer*, the county town, sixty-four miles from Schenectady, and fourteen from Utica, in the midst of the rich flats. It has one hundred and fifty houses, and twelve hundred inhabitants, a court-house, a jail, and a neat church. The village is pleasant to the eye, and the buildings comfortable. There is an obstruction made across the West Canada Creek, that forms a cascade above the bridge, and a canal is cut to the Mohawk, for mills.

In five miles, the road crosses the Mohawk River to *Frankfort*, on the south side of the Mohawk, and continues for nine miles through a series of fine farming lands, that indicates

our approach to an inland city, that soon looms up at a distance with prepossessing effect, and we find ourselves in the capacious Utica depôt buildings, having finished one of the most lovely rides possible, and a feast to the eye throughout, and passed in a rapid flight of four hours, along the most attractive parts of the State.

The *Rail-road to Syracuse*, sixty miles west, follows, not far off, the same monotonous level as the Erie Canal, and is continued to *Auburn*, twenty-seven miles, and will soon be made on and across the Cayuga Lake and bridge, to *Waterloo*, and *Geneva*, *Canandaigua*, *Bloomfield*, *Liva*, *Avon*, (with a branch to *Rochester*,) *Caledonia*, *Le Roy*, *Stafford*, *Batavia*, *Buffalo*.

UTICA contains about ten thousand inhabitants, and is a central point for turnpikes, rail-roads, and canals, that radiate from this in all directions: the *Chenango Canal* to the south, the *Black River Canal* to the north, and the *Erie Canal* and the rail-roads to the east, north-west to *Oswego*, and west, and stages in every direction. *Fort Schuyler*, noted in the early history of this State, was on the site of a part of this city, near the river, and bridge, and the depôt, and was an important frontier post during the wars of 1756, and 1776-83. In 1784, after the peace, the first settlement commenced, and from 1789 to 1800 it went on prosperously, and has so continued to the present time. The internal improvements of this State, from their concentration hereabouts, must ever make this an important inland town, and eventually, perhaps, the seat of the Legislature.

The Rail-road to *Oswego* is to be continued through the valley of the *Mohawk*, near the river, and over the rich alluvial plains of *Whitesboro'*, *Rome*, and along *Wood Creek*, and across *Fish Creek*, and by the north shore of the beautiful *Oneida Lake* and river outlet, in a north-west direction to *Oswego*, at the mouth of the *Oswego River*, *Lake Ontario*, a distance of seventy-five miles; from whence by steam-boat daily to *Lewiston* is one hundred and eighty-five miles; the time required, twelve to fifteen hours; that, added to the four from *Utica*, and four from *Schenectady*, one to *Albany*, and ten to *New-York*, gives thirty-one hours as the time by that route, or only twenty-four to twenty-seven hours via rail-road from *New-York*, *Harlaem*, to *Albany*, *Schenectady*, *Utica*, *Oswego*, and steam to *Lewiston*, (from *New-Orleans* by rail-road to *Charleston* in five days, and in three to *New-*

York, and one to Niagara, is only nine days,) amounting near to annihilation of time and space!

The *Salmon River Falls* of one hundred and eight feet, in the township of Orwell, sixty-four miles north-west of Utica, may be visited by taking the stage route to Sackett's Harbor, and diverging at Redfield to the west, towards the spot. Parties of pleasure may descend by water down the river from Redfield, or by land by a decent road, being but six miles. The current is moderate for three or four miles, then two miles of rapids occur, when we arrive at the falls, where the river is two hundred and fifty feet wide at some seasons, with the banks of slate and granite, or gneiss, rising seventy-five feet *above* the falls on each side; the waters are received into a chasm about one hundred and twenty-five or more feet in depth, making the precipice in all two hundred feet, and at the foot of the cataract there is a deep pool of water replete with fish of the first quality, viz. salmon, trout, &c. forming a well known and capital reservoir to supply the gourmands and hotels to a great distance around, that send here to replenish their larders and stock of fresh-water dainties.

From Lake Ontario, the Salmon River is eight to ten rods in width for twenty miles above its mouth, and may be ascended in high and favorable stages of water, even to the foot of the falls; and as they are well worthy of a visit, and have not hitherto been much known to the public, or minutely described, travelers will have another inducement to explore the hidden beauties of the recesses and waterfalls, and the geological formations of this extensive portion of the State, that yet retains much of its primitive wildness.

Trenton Falls,

fifteen miles from Utica in a north-east direction, on West Canada Creek, are too much in vogue to be omitted by the traveler in search of amusement, that has the least pretension to correct taste, and that follows in the footsteps of his predecessors in this fashionable route, though it involves the necessity of devoting at least ten or fifteen hours, and breaks off from the regular routine in going east or west, and abstracts so much from the time and the purse; yet nevertheless, those that come or go thus far to see all that is ac-

tually worthy of notice, should by all means, in our opinion, make their pilgrimage to this shrine, by forming an agreeable party, hiring a conveyance, and leaving Utica early in the morning, should it be intended to return in the afternoon, and devote only one day. The famous trout dinners that are usually procured at the hotel near the falls, are also one of the enjoyments of the place. Though it may excite surprise in some, yet we are constrained to declare, that the sensations awakened in a lively and ardent imagination, and the unmingled gratification derived by the spectator when the glories of this exquisite spectacle break upon his view, will for a time absorb him in silent astonishment, and leave nothing more to wish for, so near is it to perfection. The traveller will at first be so overpowered by what he beholds, that it is pardonable if he should question if there can be on earth an exhibition of falling water equal or superior; but when his gust of feeling is over, he may subsequently have reason to change or modify this opinion as he travels farther and sees more, compares, and reflects, and discriminates, giving to all the due meed of praise, but even then, when he reverts to Trenton Falls in after life, the impression it first made upon his mind is strong and enduring,—perhaps unrivalled.

West Canada Creek is about sixty miles long, and rises in the wild tracts, and interlocks with the sources of Black River in the high and bleak regions north of the Mohawk River, and forms one of the principal tributaries of the latter, and occasionally vomits forth its sudden and dangerous floods and wears and tears its impetuous course among the limestone and slaty rocks, until, near Trenton, it enters upon a series of descents of near forty feet down a ravine that it has worked for five miles into every various form of twisted and distorted aspect, and at the bridge on the road above the Little Falls begins to be remarkable, but three miles below, and two east of Trenton village, it increases upon and absorbs the wonder of the traveler.

Following the path from the hotel or boarding-house, we arrive at the brink of a ravine, bordered by forest trees and evergreens of spruce, fir, hemlock, &c. The appearance of such a deep ravine in the general surface, that had not before been noticed in the approach, is the source of some surprise, and this is increased as we descend the stairway into the depths and gloom of the ravine, here, perhaps, one hundred and fifty or two hundred and fifty feet deep, and two hundred

wide, and find ourselves upon a floor or foundation of solid rock, and with a very limited extent of blue sky, or the vault or arch of heaven above our heads. On glancing the eye around the walls of the immense chamber or enclosure that encompasses us, we admire the drapery that covers and ornaments the rocks, and the lichens of scarlet, green, and yellow, the trees that wave over the margin, or impend in threatening attitudes, held only by a slight adhesion of their roots, jutting from the loose soil above, or the shrubs and creeping ivies, trailing down in graceful festoons from crevices high up and midway on the face of the precipice.

As we advance slowly up, we note the regular horizontal arrangement of the limestone that comprises the sides, and the clear and massive pavement-like regularity beneath our feet; the mechanical form and regularity of the circular or deep cistern-shaped pools, or the square race-ways and channels, as though chiseled by the hand of art, and leading from reservoir to cascade in endless variety, and passing through with unceasing force and rapidity.

Contemplating in every aspect these wonders of the glen, we proceed to the falls in succession, beginning with

Sherman's Fall, thirty-five feet, named after John Sherman, the first occupant of the hotel, and one that was extensively known as a good lecturer to his visitors here on the numerous organic remains that are contained in the rock to a very remarkable extent, and that Mr. Sherman exhibited a profusion of it in his museum, after giving a capital dinner to his hearers and customers. Mr. Sherman formed the path, and placed the chains for the security of visitors that have the courage and curiosity to place themselves in these trying, queer, and delicate positions for nervous persons.

The *High Falls*, one hundred and nine feet, divided into three different and splendid chutes, of thirty-seven, eleven, and forty-eight, besides the connecting chain of irregular descent or slope, in grand floods or overflows are all combined into one descending mass of pure snowy-white foam, but in a drier season it finds its way over the rocks in separate channels.

The *Mill Dam Fall* has a uniform pitch of fourteen feet only, and is one hundred and eighty feet wide.

The *Cascades*, and intermediate chain of rapids, have a fall of eighteen feet, and are much more compressed by the jagged projections of the ravine.

The *Upper Fall* is about twenty feet, and is received into a capacious receptacle or reservoir, that is tapped and let off by a wild ravine, and the coup d'œil from the bridge, or on the west side of the river, is very pleasing, and we have arrived at the head of the ravine, and beyond this, we have in a distance of two miles of rapids, a descent of fifty or sixty feet. There are other falls at and below Conrad's Mills, that do not require specific notice.

When the writer visited these falls, the water was at that stage when there was evidently not the slightest danger to any prudent, careful person, not disposed to incur needless risk; and when the water is lower than common, there is still enough that will please and reward the visiter, and during the excitement of an overwhelming freshet, no one would venture below the stairway.

From Utica an important route extends south, along the banks of the Chenango River and Canal, through Oneida, Madison, Chenango, and Broome Counties, to Binghamton on the Susquehannah River, about ninety-two miles, and thence east to Catskill, and also south-east through Pennsylvania and New-York to Newburgh, and also west to Oswego, Athens, Tioga Point, Chemung, Elmira, Painted Post, Bath, Batavia, Buffalo, or from Owego over the hills by a good road to Wilkesbarre, or Valley of Wyoming, or through New Jersey by way of Milford, or Delaware, Morristown, and Newark, to New-York.

The ride along the banks of the Susquehannah from its source in the Otsego Lake, southward to the Great Bend, and thence west for one hundred and fifty miles, through Binghamton, Owego, Newtown, and near the line of the New-York and Erie Rail-road, is capital, and also from Tioga Point down to Wyoming, Harrisburgh, and the coal mines.

Stage Route from Utica to the Falls of Niagara.

(Until the enlargement of the Erie Canal to seventy feet width and six feet depth, to admit of the use of steam-boats, or until a continuous line of rail-road is effected from Auburn to Rochester and Buffalo.)

New Hartford, four miles; Manchester, five; Vernon, eight; Oneida Castle, five; Lenox and Canostota, three; Quality Hill,

three; Chitteningo, five; (two routes from hence to Auburn and Cayuga Lake; the right hand, or northern, near the canal, through Syracuse, Geddes, Milan, Camillus, Elbridge, Brutus, Troopsville, forty miles,) the other as follows: to Manlius, seven; Jamesville, six; Onondaga Hollow and Creek, four; Onondaga on the hill, two; (Syracuse, and the salt works, and Onondaga Lake in sight down in the valley below, with the canal leading north to Oswego on Lake Ontario;) Marcellus, eight; (falls two miles north, of sixty-five feet;) and Skaneateles, six; (branch rail-road of four and a half miles to the north to Auburn and Syracuse rail-road:) Auburn, seven; Cayuga, seven; Seneca Falls, four; Waterloo, four; Geneva, seven; (Canandaigua, fifteen; to Rochester, twenty-seven miles;) East Bloomfield, nine; West Bloomfield, five; Lima, four; Avon, five; Sulphur Springs, nine; Potosi, two. Cross Genesee River to Caledonia Large Spring, eight; Le Roy, six; Batavia, ten; Pembroke, fourteen; Clarence, eight; Williamsville, eight; Buffalo, ten.

The ride from *Utica* to *New Hartford*, by the Sedaghquoda Creek, and line of Chenango Canal, is delightful, and indicates at the last place a wealthy, happy people, with their handsome, comfortable mansions, fine farms, gardens, one hundred and sixty buildings, three churches, and several mills. At a distance of three miles, observe the edifices of *Hamilton College* on the hill one mile and a half from the village of Clinton. The annual commencement is on the second Wednesday in August. There are three colleges, and a church of stone. A president, professors of Ethics and Political Economy, Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, Languages, Mathematics, and Astronomy, one tutor, one hundred and fifteen students. The late W. H. Maynard gave it twenty thousand dollars, and S. Dexter fifteen thousand dollars.

The *Clinton Liberal Institute*, in the village of that name, consists of a farm for such as desire to pay a portion of the expenses of education by manual labor. There are two college buildings, one of stone, ninety-six by fifty-two feet, and five stories high, with forty-four rooms for study, a lecture-room, and others for the professors. No sectarian or theological instruction admitted.

Baptist Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, a stone house, one hundred by sixty feet, four stories, has sixty-eight chambers, a lecture-room, library, and chapel, a boarding-house, a shop for work, a farm of one hundred and thirty

acres. Four years is the regular course, two for theological ; one hundred and eighty students ; tuition sixteen dollars a year ; board, washing, and lodging, one dollar a week.

The same appearance of exuberance and fertility continues to Manchester, on the Oriskana Creek, a manufacturing village, and also to Vernon, with its churches, mills, and glass factory. The *Oneida Castle* and Creek is on the old Indian reservation of the Oneida and Tuscarora Indians, that but recently removed from this to Green Bay, or rather to Winnebago Lake in Wisconsin. *Lenox* has one store, two taverns, thirty houses, one Presbyterian Church. *Canostota* has four churches, four taverns, four stores, and several groceries and forwarding houses, one high school, and one hundred and thirty neat dwellings, and is seen a few rods north of the road on the canal and Canaseraga Creek.

Chitteningo Creek and village, a branch canal of one mile and a half leads to the Erie Canal, and a small settlement, basin, dry-dock, and boat-yard. The village contains one hundred and fifty houses, a large Dutch Reformed Church of stone, and academy of the same sect, and one Presbyterian and one Methodist church, three taverns, stores, &c. It is on the outlet of *Cazenovia Lake*, from whence there is a descent of seven hundred and forty feet, including one pitch of one hundred and thirty-four feet, giving great water-power for eight or ten miles. Two mineral springs in the vale one mile above, of sulphur and magnesia ; hill on the east of calciferous slate, with springs holding carbonate of lime, and forming petrifications in abundance for cabinets.

Lake *Cazenovia*, or Hawgeno, or Canaleraga, or Linklaen, is four miles long and one broad, and is a beautiful expanse, environed by a gently waving country.

The town of *Cazenovia* is placed at the outlet of the lake, and has three hundred houses, neat, substantial, of limestone or brick, a bank, a land office, a ladies' seminary, and one for Methodists, of large brick buildings for one hundred and twenty-five boarders, and having two hundred and fifty pupils, male and female, a Presbyterian, a Congregational, a Baptist, and a Methodist church, five mills, two woollen factories, a wire loom, three hotels, two drug, one book, and ten dry-good stores, ashery, tannery, six groceries. Col. Linklaen begun this town in 1795, and it is a charming spot, and lands around it are forty to fifty dollars the acre. Cannot the traveler step aside for an hour or two, and examine this pretty lake and town ?

Manlius, in *Onondaga County*, on the east of *Limestone Creek*, at the junction of several roads, is ten miles south-east of *Syracuse*, and forty west of *Utica*; has three churches, one hundred and fifty houses, two taverns, six stores, one cotton factory, and several mills. One mile south of the village, and on both branches, are falls, one of a hundred, and one of fifty feet; also a sulphur spring with petrifying qualities.

Green Pond is one and a half miles long by three-quarters wide, and is sunk two hundred feet below the level of the rocky shores, and is two hundred feet deep. The surface is a mirror of deep green. It is in the town of *Jamesville*, six miles from *Manlius*.

Onondaga Hollow and *Valley* is remarkable for being the chief seat of the power of this tribe, one of the confederation of the five nations that ruled this State. The *Onondaga Creek* is a lively stream that runs from south to north for ten miles, through a broad rich valley of the deepest soil of vegetable mould, and enters the *Onondaga Lake* at its south-east corner near *Salina*. The old *castle* or council-house, the ancient seat of Indian power, and the reservation and town recently held by them, was three miles south of the road, in fifty log houses on a long street, and perchance some of the remnant of the tribe may yet be seen lingering about in the neighborhood, or at *Syracuse*. The Indian name for the whole confederacy was *Aganuschioni*, or United People, and by the French, *Iroquois*, and consisted of the *Mohawks*, *Onondagas*, *Cayugas*, *Senecas*, *Tuscaroras*; these sold out to the State of *New-York*, for two thousand dollars annually, their claim to a large portion of the central and western part of this State. Some reside on *Grand River* in *Canada*, others at *Buffalo*, and some are gone farther west. The village settlement in the hollow has two churches, two mills, an academy, one store, three taverns, and sixty houses. The vicinity of *Syracuse*, only four miles, and the great canal, have drawn off the business. There is also a *South Onondaga* ten miles from *Syracuse*, that has a church, a store, tavern, and a few houses. There is also

Onondaga West Hill, is on the hill that looks abroad very extensively over hill and valley, lake and city. Here is a Presbyterian and Episcopal church, the old court-house, prison, fire-proof clerk's office, two taverns, four stores, and fifty dwellings, and some old respectable residents, or early settlers. For a description of *Syracuse*, (and of the salt works,) *Salina*, *Liverpool*, *Geddes*, and of the lake, see canal.

Marcellus, on Nine Mile Creek, the outlet of the *Otisco Lake* a few miles south, and that is four miles long and one wide, and runs into the *Onondaga Lake*, has a church, and seventy-five or one hundred houses. The waters hereabout possess strong petrifying qualities, and a specimen may be seen on the bank, of a large tree partly imbedded in limestone, by inquiring of the village physician or minister. There is an abundance of fine blue limestone of good quality, and of the water lime or cement, mills, factories, &c. and two miles north, falls of seventy feet.

Skaneateles,

at the outlet of the lake, is the second of those attractive lake cities (*Cazenovia* being the first) that we encounter in traveling this great western thoroughfare. It contains four churches, an academy, and five grist-mills that can make forty thousand barrels of flour annually, also four saw, four carding and cloth-dressing mills, two woollen factories, two furnaces and founderies, two machine-shops, four tanneries, two carriage factories, two taverns, eight stores, three hundred houses, and two thousand one hundred and fifty inhabitants. The site of the village is unsurpassed in its complete command of the lake, that is as transparent as air; its banks romantic, picturesque, and rising into eminences of several hundred feet at its southern termination; it abounds with trout in its deep cool waters, that reflect like a mirror, the hills and slopes, woods, meadows, and pure white farm houses. Petrifications also abound here; on the east, and on a level with the water, are organic remains of the *cornu ammonis*, imbedded in slate. Three miles north of the outlet, the creek sinks into the rocks below the falls of seventy feet, and is lost for some distance, but this is often the case in *Florida*, and in limestone countries. The Indian name of this lake, as preserved, means *LONG*; it is fed by springs, and is fifteen miles long by one half to one and a half wide.

Auburn,

is the third of the series of elegant lake cities; contains eight hundred and fifty houses, and five thousand five

hundred and fifty-five inhabitants, a Theological Seminary, eight churches, twenty-seven schools, two banks, capital four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, court-house, jail, clerk's office, sixty-two stores of all kinds, and factories of tools, clocks, candles, combs, cabinet ware, saddles and harness, looking-glasses, leather and morocco, boots and shoes, hats, tobacco, bellows, burr-mill-stones, coverlets, carpets, cotton-cards, threshing machines, tea-kettles, japanned ware, steam-engines, carriages. There are three bookstores and binderies, five merchant tailors, eight blacksmiths, three distilleries, one brewery, three furnaces, four flour-mills, one marble yard, two livery stables, two wool carding and clothiers, one dentist, two portrait painters, six milliners, five dress makers.

Auburn is two and a half miles from the lake, but on the outlet that has ample water-power. The streets are wide, paved or macadamized, and there are handsome ranges of stone and brick stores, and in the retired parts some tasteful dwellings and embellished grounds. The public buildings built in 1836-7-8 are honorable to the inhabitants, and its domes, colonnades, &c. place it far ahead of many other western towns. Its hotels are good.

The celebrated STATE-PRISON may be seen on buying a ticket of the keeper, and the best time is early in the morning, when they are brought out of their cells and arranged in squads, close as they can squeeze, in Indian file, stepping off and stamping hard with a simultaneous lock-step, eyes to their overseer, head erect, each bearing his pail on one of his folded arms in perfect silence, entering their various shops, and kept at constant labor during the regular hours, till four o'clock P. M. when the muffled bell is struck, all labor is suspended, and the convicts, eight or nine hundred, return in the same manner to their cells, and are separately locked up for the night. The most minute precision is required in all their movements. The walls that form the inclosure are thirty-five feet high, four thick, and two thousand feet in extent, or five hundred feet each front. The interior yard has ample reservoirs of water, and a range of work-shops of brick, lighted in the sides and roof. The cost was over three hundred thousand dollars, not including the convict labor. The Owasco Creek flows alongside the prison walls on the south.

It is seven miles to the Erie Canal at Weed's Basin, and stages ply constantly to and fro, and twenty-two miles by the

rail-road to Syracuse, there are great quantities of gypsum, or plaster of Paris, quarried on this route, and abundance of the best lime stone.

Aurelius, four miles west of Auburn, has two taverns, two stores, and twenty houses. *Cayuga*, three miles further, at the foot of the Cayuga Lake, has a church, high school, three taverns, four stores, and forty houses. The longest bridge in the State, it being one mile and eight rods, here extends over and across the lake, and gives the traveler in passing, a satisfactory view of the lake, and its highly beautiful and cultivated shores, far as the eye can reach. A steamer runs to and from Ithaca daily, from the bridge, to meet canal-boats at certain hours. (Travelers intending to go to Ithaca or Owego, should, at Utica, or Syracuse, or at Auburn, where they agree to take the stage, only pay the fare to the Cayuga bridge, and take the steam-boat for Ithaca, and arrive at the head of the lake, thirty-six miles, in three or four hours.) Just before his arrival there he will notice on the east shore a foaming cascade come pouring down the ledges of the slate-rock.

A car starts on the rail-road for Owego soon after the boat arrives at Ithaca, and traveling but slowly, gets in about seven or eight o'clock; twenty-nine and a half miles; the most defective route in the State. Good hotels are at Ithaca, and fine views in the environs, especially on the summit of the hill overlooking the town, and lake, and shores, with its parti-colored squares of farms and woods. The effect of the distant aerial perspective is grand.

A stage leaves Ithaca early the next morning for Bath, twenty-two miles, at the head of the Seneca Lake, and arrives in time for the steam-boat that goes down for Geneva, unless the tourist inclines to remain at Bath, to breathe a few hours and look around.

Ithaca

is our fourth city of the lakes. In front, and between it and the head of the lake, are three thousand acres of alluvial flats, from which the hills ascend on three sides, amphitheatrically, five hundred feet, with truly magnificent effect, and the picturesque character of the environs is improved and made eminently attractive by the Fall Creek, the Casca-

dilla, and Six-mile Creeks, that find their way over the hills, and pay tribute to the Cayuga. Fall Creek rises in Lock Pond, Summer Hill, Cayuga County, fourteen hundred feet above tide, and flows south and south-west thirty miles, and falls, near Ithaca, within one mile, four hundred and thirty-eight feet, over rocks of dark gray wacke slate; this is best seen from the bridge or steam-boat. The last fall is one hundred and sixteen feet, down a steep succession of narrow ledges of rock or stairway to the lake level. The rocks each side above the falls, rise one hundred and ten feet, and enclose a pool for the mills below, that is drawn off or tapped, by a tunnel through the rock, thirteen feet high, twelve broad, and two hundred long, and is made to be used five or six times with a twenty feet head of water. The Cascadilla leaps down a gigantic stairway one hundred feet, and Five-mile Creek is still more surprising.

There are five churches, a court-house and prison, clerk's office, thirteen mills, four factories, thirteen taverns, twenty-eight general stores, many groceries, druggist stores, four printing-offices, two book-stores, one bank, capital two hundred thousand dollars, and one of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, eight hundred dwellings, and four thousand inhabitants.

Bridgeport, at the west end of Cayuga bridge, contains a store, two taverns, and thirty dwellings.

Seneca Falls

is three miles west of the Cayuga Lake and Bridge, on the Seneca River, the outlet of the Seneca Lake, and where there is within twelve hundred yards, a heavy water-power of forty-seven feet over four dams. In seven flour mills are twenty-four runs of stones that make eighty-five thousand barrels of flour. Of other mills, are one for paper, six saw, four plaster, three clove, and two oil, one clothing works, one clock and one cotton factory, dyeing and bleaching, one furnace, three sash and window-blind factories, one tannery, one distillery, one machine shop, four taverns, six lawyers, five physicians, twenty stores, five hundred dwellings, and three thousand five hundred inhabitants; five churches, a newspaper and printing-office, an academy. In 1827, only two hundred and sixty-five inhabitants. Land sells fifty to

seventy dollars the acre. The water power can drive two hundred thousand spindles. At *Chamberlain's Mills*, two miles from the above town, and one from Waterloo, is a flouring and plaster mill, and fifteen houses. The lively aspect of the town of Seneca Falls strikes the stranger most favorably, and denotes that from its water-power and manufacturing propensities here is destined to be a flourishing vicinity, a wealthy and comfortable population.

Waterloo.

four miles from Seneca, is also on the river or outlet of Seneca Lake, and has three grist, two oil, two saw-mills, two distilleries, one furnace for castings, two tanneries, three clothiers, pail, tub, churn, and wooden bowl factory, one ashery, one boat-yard, one newspaper, two large hotels, three taverns, twelve dry-goods, and one hardware store, court-house, jail, six lawyers, five physicians, three hundred and fifty houses, three churches, two thousand inhabitants. This is also an active, bustling place. Seven miles to the west, we arrive at

Geneva,

following the northern shore, and crossing the outlet or drain of the lake, where there is a strong current issuing out, of clear, green, pure water.

The land between the Cayuga and Seneca Lakes rises into very lofty hills, and is capital soil for wheat, but liable to drought, &c. From the roads skirting each lake, and surmounting the hills, are a series of splendid views. There are eight churches. The Geneva College is under the regents of the University of the State of New-York, and has a President, a Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, of the French, German, and Spanish, of Chemistry and Mineralogy, and application to Agriculture and Arts, of Engineering and Statistics, besides two tutors. There is a Medical department, with Professors of Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physiology, of Instruction and Practice of Medicine, of Surgery, of Obstetrics and Materia Medica, and of Medical Jurisprudence, and Botany. Not confined to classics. Students fifty-three. Buildings of stone.

There is a bank with four hundred thousand dollars capital, three hundred and seventy-four dwellings, and three thousand inhabitants, twenty-three stores, twenty store-houses, seventy-three workshops, sixteen steam grist, one saw mill, one air furnace, two machine shops, one steam-engine factory, fifteen dry goods, five drugs, two hardware, twelve groceries, nine taverns, nine shoe makers' stores, five tailors, nine smiths, two confectionaries, one edge tool, three saddlers, four carriage makers, two chair makers, four silver smiths, one plough, two threshing machine factories, one burr millstone, two tin, one rifle, one lead pipe and metal pump, one sash, and three hat factories and stores, five cabinet makers, one artist, two printing-offices and papers, two book stores, two binderies, one museum, eleven law, and one insurance office, six milliners, two hay scales, two bakers, one upholsterer, one tallow chandler, one stocking weaver, one auction store, three barbers, a young ladies' school, three grammar schools, two district and seven common, and six hundred pupils.

Geneva, our fifth lake city, is situated at the north-west corner of Seneca Lake, on a fine slope, giving the inhabitants a noble view of the lake, and those residing on the east side of the street have terraced gardens down to the lake, that have an admirable effect. The rest of the town is on a summit one hundred and twenty feet above the lake, giving a view to all, as it rises in gradations, and covered with neat villas and seats, court-yards, gardens, &c. The compact part is on lower ground. Families enjoying wealth and leisure find this a desirable residence. A steam-boat leaves this place daily, at 7 A. M., for the south or head of the lake, Jeffersonville, and is back at night. During the lake trip, observe on the east shore, the town of Ovid on the height of land, eighteen miles, and the capital farms occupying the hills far as the eye can reach; and opposite is Dresden, where the waters of the crooked lake come in from the west, and where that female humbug, Jemima Wilkinson, had her farm and her followers, as all fanatics in this country can readily procure Mormons and Matthias, &c. Long, or Elephant Point, is four miles south. In six miles south is Jemima's *walk in* or *on the water* place of exhibition, and in six miles south is Starkie's Point, with deep water close in shore, and in four miles more, a fall of one hundred and thirty-six feet, and in a ravine still farther, is a fall of one hundred and fifty feet in the town of Hector, three miles from Jeffersonville. The

lake is *ice-proof*, or so *deep* that it *never freezes*, but steams it profusely in cold weather.

From Geneva is a branch canal of fifteen miles to the Erie Canal. Wheat, barley, wool, whiskey, beef and pork, pearl and potashes, butter, flour, lumber, glass, and grass seed, are bought up here for eastern markets. Eight miles west of Geneva is Flint Creek, running north into the Canandaigua outlet at Vienna, eight miles north; and in seven miles from Flint Creek is

Canandaigua,

our sixth lake city, contains three thousand inhabitants, and five hundred dwellings, some of them not exceeded in style or good taste in architecture by any city or place whatever. The great charm and most attractive feature in this suburban villa, is the embowered and rural aspect, the neatness of the front yards, and of the ample gardens, pleasure grounds, walks, shrubberies, shaded and paved streets and side-walks, and all those agreeables denoting comfort, good society, and wealth. It is on two long parallel streets, north and south, and others at right angles. Has four churches, an academy for males, and one for females; the former edifice is eighty by forty, three stories high; expense of tuition, board, &c. one hundred dollars per annum. School teachers are educated and taught. The Ontario bank with a capital of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, a branch of the Utica bank with one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, eight public houses, including two large hotels, Blossoms' and Pitts', three fire companies, seventeen law offices, ten physicians, two book-stores, three printing-offices and papers, sixteen stores of all trades, two hat and two tin factories, one gun smith, a steam grist, and a windmill, a furnace for castings, two tanneries, one brewery, two asheries. There is a fine view of the lake from all parts of the town. The lake is fourteen miles long, and one and a half to two broad; has a steam-boat that trips it daily for the accommodation of the public and of strangers. The *Burning Springs* are on each side of the lake, three miles off, and in Bristol, eight miles south-east from Canandaigua, and also one to two miles south-west of Rushville, in a long valley, and in winter they form openings in the snow, and the fire being applied, the

novel sight of a flame rising out of the snow is witnessed, and in very cold weather, tubes of ice are formed around these currents of gas to the height of two or three feet, the gas issuing from their tops, and when lighted, more brilliant than the former.

Rochester,

twenty-seven miles from Canandaigua, in a north-west direction, can be visited by stage and the rail-road* taken for thirty-two miles thence to Batavia; or the traveler can take the canal to Lockport, and see the wonders there, the huge double locks, the grand natural basin, and the deep rock excavation of several miles, and by rail-road thence to Niagara Falls, or continue on by canal through the entire route once, and take some other method in returning. Whichever way may be adopted, we shall perfect our stage route, however, west of Canandaigua, and after crossing two small streams running north, in nine miles we arrive at *East Bloomfield*, with its two churches,

* *Tonnawanta Rail-road* was constructed in the following cheap and simple manner: "Large posts of twenty-four or thirty inches in diameter were placed on each side of the track opposite to each other, and to enter the earth firm and hard, to sustain the side timbers of the track, and squared at the top. Each set of posts ten feet apart. Upon the top of these posts were laid transversely, sticks of timber twelve or fifteen inches in diameter, mortised on the upper side near each end, to receive the longitudinal timbers, that, being from sixteen to twenty inches in diameter, hewed only on the upper side, and intended for the support of each of the rails, were let into the mortises of the transverse timbers, and supported by them at the posts. This, where embankments were made, gives a very substantial frame-work of the proper grade. On the top of the longitudinal timbers, wooden ribbons, as a substitute for iron rails, were laid. Rail-road cars were procured to carry earth, with four boxes each, turning on hinges, to drop the earth between and over the sides of the rails. These cars were loaded at places of excavation, moved by horse-power on the track to make embankments. The same frame-work was used and put down where excavations were made. When the road was finally prepared for operations, pine scantling, three by four inches, were laid on the longitudinal timbers, and *iron plate rail* on the scantling, and all securely fastened by heavy spikes seven inches long." In a country like this, abounding in timber, this is the most economical, but not durable. The *whole timber* work, except the scantling, is *covered with earth* to prevent decay, and the frame-work and earth add mutual support and strength. This does well, and if cars run off the track, they are received on the ground, and not on cross timbers.

two taverns, two stores, thirty houses, one tannery, situated on high and commanding ground, and having the most celebrated farms and choice wheat lands. Five miles beyond, we reach *West Bloomfield*, and in a mile we cross the *Honeoye* Creek, the combined outlet of three small lakes at eight or ten miles south, that runs into the Genesee River, and in four miles we arrive at *Lima*; the whole distance from East Bloomfield being through farms in first-rate order, fence, and keeping. To *East Avon* five, and the Post Office two miles more from Lima, passing the notoriously rich valley of the *Genesee Flats*, and ten miles south, the *Wadsworth Farm* at Geneseo, and Mount Morris, (for the falls of Genesee, also for the line of the canal extending from Rochester south, up the Genesee Valley, see index.)

The two *Avon Springs* rise within an eighth of a mile from each other, about a mile south of the village. It is useful for its sulphureous qualities. Here are three boarding-houses, much resorted to by the country people; a remarkable pond enclosing Indian works, and a root that is peculiar to the flats here, of gigantic size, may be worth inquiring for.

After crossing the Genesee River on a substantial bridge, the road varies its course to the north-west, and in eight miles we arrive at the *Big Spring* at *Caledonia*, that must be seen as it is near at hand, and is quite an anomaly in its way, bursting out a full grown mill-race. This is probably the lost water from Allen's Creek at the high falls in Le Roy, seven miles west, and they rejoin that stream in two or three miles north in WHEATLAND. A stage runs from this to Rochester, twenty miles north-east. Here are two Presbyterian churches, four taverns, four stores, one flouring and one saw mill, one brewery, and sixty houses.

Le Roy,

on an eminence on Allen's Creek, is our next agreeable-looking settlement in six miles from the Big Spring, and here are the falls that supply it through apertures in the lime-stone rock that prevails in this region. Here are four churches, two large mills, each with four runs of stones, and making forty thousand barrels of flour per annum, one oil and one plaster mill, a furnace for castings, a tannery, a machine factory, fifteen stores, three taverns, four lawyers, five

doctors, fifteen hundred inhabitants, two hundred and fifty houses of stone, with gardens and grounds on a liberal scale, and very pleasing to the stranger. The land office for the triangular tract is here. The fall here in Allen's Creek is eighteen feet, and in one mile, twenty-seven feet more, and in two miles is one of eighty feet. The creek at Le Roy has a stone bridge of three arches. Beyond this creek we enter on the great plain of the west, throwing off streams on all sides. Look for more petrifications on the bed of the creek six hundred feet north of the bridge.

Batavia,

ten miles from Le Roy, is situated on the *Tonnewanta Creek*; and is the first stream that we have thus far encountered that pays its tribute to the Niagara *above* the Falls. The stream pursues a course from east to west, on an elevated rocky plateau, about four hundred feet higher than Lake Ontario, and seventy or eighty above Lake Erie. The highest terrace in the southern part of Genesee County is eight hundred feet above Lake Ontario, consequently rises four hundred feet in thirty-five miles, less than twelve feet to the mile, and not perceptible to the eye, being almost a dead level, and having barely descent to drain the country. The elevation is by ridges, as is seen by the streams cutting through the rock to the north. From this elevated plateau the drain to the west is to Lake Erie; on the east to the Genesee River, and on the south to Cattaraugus Creek. The Tonnawanta has a meandering course of forty miles in a valley two to four miles wide.

Here are three churches, a land office, a bank, capital one hundred thousand dollars, a flouring mill with four runs of stones, three large brick hotels and five taverns, twelve dry-good, two hardware, two drug, and one bookstore and bindery, two printing-offices and papers, a bell foundery and gun smith, two tanneries, two hatteries, three millineries, four shoe-stores, one iron foundery, five physicians, nine law offices, three hundred houses, one thousand six hundred and fifty inhabitants. Lands within three miles of the village sell from twenty to forty dollars the acre. A rail-road of thirty-two miles, called the Tonnawanta, extends to Rochester, and others to Buffalo and Lockport will soon be finished. Here are many neat residences of

the wealthy land-owners of the vicinity. The less that is said about the masonic murder of Morgan, or of his abduction, or of the miserable log or corduroy roads from this to the west, the better, as, when the rail-road is completed, as it soon will be on the entire route, all old grievances will be forgotten. *East Pembroke* post-office is six miles west from Batavia. *West Pembroke* post-office is at Richville, eight miles farther. *Clarence Hollow*, or *Kensent Grove*, has a church, forty houses, one ashery, one grist and saw-mill, one distillery, one tannery, two taverns, five stores, three groceries. *Williamsville*, ten miles north-east of Buffalo, has a Catholic Church, a grist, saw, and water lime mill, and a quarry of the same, fifty houses, four groceries, one dry goods, two taverns, one tannery.

Buffalo,

the queen of the lake cities, is admirably situated at the outlet of Lake Erie, and at the head of the Niagara river, and at the western extremity of the Grand Erie Canal. There is a rail road of eighteen miles leading to Niagara Falls, and a series of rail-roads to Batavia, Rochester, and from Auburn to Syracuse, Utica, Schenectady, Albany. From the terrace the land rises by a very gentle acclivity for two miles to a level plain, presenting a wide and enchanting view of the lake, the Niagara River, the canal, and its branches, the city and the Canada shore. The streets are broad, and intersect usually at right angles. There are three public squares, a bank, and some airy wide streets, with neat villas, court-yards and gardens, a lyceum and library. The Erie Canal is continued along the entire lake in front of the city to Little Buffalo Creek, with frequent lateral cuts and basins, bringing all the lower part of the city in reach of the canal facilities.

A mole or pier of wood and stone, of fifteen hundred feet long, extends from the south side of the creek, out into the lake, so as to form a partial break-water, to protect boats and shipping from the violent gales that are felt, though still-water is made for a mile on the creek, and a ship canal eighty feet wide, and thirteen deep, and seven hundred yards long, is also now made. A light-house on the head of the pier, of dressed yellowish lime-stone, forty-six feet high and

twenty in diameter at the base ; is a durable structure, and ornamental to the city. The cost of the pier, &c. was about one hundred thousand dollars, seven-eighths being paid by the United States.

Buffalo is the port of entry for the *Niagara District*, including Silver Creek, Dunkirk, and Portland, and all above the Falls. It is the depôt of the trade for the upper lakes, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and part of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, including a *lake coast* of 5,719 miles.

The city has twenty-five thousand inhabitants, three thousand houses, one hundred and fifty-two streets, fifteen churches, two seminaries, many district and select schools, two theatres, a court-house, jail, two hundred stores, three banks, aggregate capital one million, many hotels and taverns, six newspapers, and a great variety of manufactories. It is divided into five wards, and has a mayor and common council that are elected annually. Its streets are paved, regular, and laid out in reference to the natural slopes : a portion of it that was formerly low and marshy near the creek and lake is liable to be submerged during violent storms.

The buildings are in general decent, some are splendid, and the stores recently erected are four and five stories high. Nearly two-thirds of the merchandise received at Buffalo goes no farther, being for the use of the city and vicinity. Sixty mails arrive and depart weekly. Postage in 1835, twenty thousand eight hundred and eighty-one dollars. The amount invested by her citizens in steam-boats, and lake vessels, canal-boats, &c. about one million ; advances on freight and produce passing east and west, two millions ; manufactures yearly, two millions ; and sales in addition, one million seven hundred and forty-eight thousand seven hundred dollars ; expended in building in a year, one million one hundred and thirty thousand dollars ; arrivals and departure of vessels in 1835, in two hundred and ten days was seven hundred and twenty steam-boats each way ; other vessels, nine hundred and twenty each way ; canal clearances, five thousand one hundred and twenty-six ; tolls received, one hundred and five thousand six hundred and sixty-three dollars. The University of Western New-York is here established on a liberal foundation, by endowments or donations to the amount of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The terrible revulsion and derangement of the currency in 1837 prostrated for a time the energies and growth of this place.

The town was originally laid out in 1801 by the Holland Land Company, on the hill or terrace, fifty feet above the lake, and in part on the low ground or marsh towards the lake and creek. The draining of the marsh has rendered it fit for building, and it is now the business part of the city.

The Lake Erie boats leave at regular intervals in the morning and at night. Boats are despatched to the Upper Lakes as often as the case requires. At each port sufficient time is allowed to take in freight and provide every luxury for passengers. The prices are, to Cleveland, in the cabin, six dollars; steerage, two dollars fifty cents. Detroit, eight dollars; steerage, three dollars.

The prices of freight, charged

From Buffalo to Chicago, Light, per 100 lbs.	87½ cents.
“ “ “ Heavy, “	62½ “
“ “ “ Barrel bulk, “	\$1 50 “
“ “ Silver Creek, Dunkirk, and Barcelona;	25 a 35 “
“ “ Erie, Grand River, and Cleveland,	27 a 50 “
“ “ Ports above Cleveland, to Detroit,	30 a 46 “

During one week twenty-seven steamers and thirty-eight brigs and schooners entered the harbor of Buffalo, bringing forty-four thousand two hundred and seventy-four bushels wheat; fifteen thousand nine hundred and eight barrels flour; one thousand four hundred and twenty-five barrels pork; two thousand six hundred and fifteen bushels corn; two hundred and fifty casks ashes; seven hundred and nineteen hides; fifty-seven bales of buffalo robes and deer skins—besides immense quantities of fish, glass, brooms, staves, &c. The business of the canal is great; frequently thirty boats arrive in one day, and sixty are cleared from the collector's office for the east—all well loaded.

The *Seneca Reservation* has nine hundred Indians, including some Onondagas and Cayugas, is from three to four miles south-east of Buffalo, and is eighteen miles by seven on Buffalo Creek and its branches, and amounts to forty-nine thousand acres, fertile and reaching near the city bounds. North of the reserve, the average price of improved farms is twenty-five dollars, and south, twenty dollars the acre. Within five miles from the city, they are from one hundred to three hundred dollars per acre, caused by the Indian lands

not coming into market, and by the vicinity of the lake restricting the lands in that direction.

Limestone lies in deep horizontal stratified masses on the banks of the Niagara, between Buffalo and Black Rock. Bird Island, opposite Black Rock, is a naked rock frequently under water. Squaw Island, at the foot of the Black Rock rapids, contains one hundred and thirty-one acres. Strawberry Island, one hundred acres. Beaver Island, thirty acres. Rattlesnake Island, forty-eight acres. Tonnawanta Island, sixty-nine acres. Cayuga Island, Buckhorn Island, *Goat* or *Iris* Island, seventy-five acres.

Grand Island (Owanungah) begins five miles from the lake, and measures around its edge twelve, and in width three to six miles, and ends three from the Falls; contains seventeen thousand three hundred and eighty-four acres covered with oak of the first quality for ship building. A company from Boston now own it, and have a village called *White Haven*, of fifty families and two hundred workmen, opposite the mouth of Tonnawanta Creek, and a steam, grist and saw mill, one hundred and fifty feet square, and room for fifteen gangs of saws; many workshops, a school, and church; a long wharf and timber dock. Frames of ships are selected and sent to the sea-board, employing fifty canal-boats and several sloops. The steam-boats from Buffalo touch here to Chippewa and the Falls; and the ferry over this branch of the Niagara is one hundred rods wide. The island is alluvial, and is a bed of blue clay forty-seven feet deep, far as penetrated, in which are found water-worn stones, but no water; that from the river being used.

Black Rock is three miles north of Buffalo, opposite Waterloo and Fort Erie, in Canada. The river is three quarters of a mile wide, and runs with a current of six miles an hour, and is twenty feet deep. Ferriage twenty-five cents. The water is of a sea-green color, pure, and clear, and sprightly, almost sparkling; and from Black Rock to the Falls the banks are eight to ten feet above the river, and a plain extends on all sides, and the river is not much below the level of the bank between Grand Island and the main, and at the Tonnawanta. The harbor of *Black Rock* is four thousand five hundred and sixty-five yards long from south to north, and from eighty-eight to two hundred and twenty yards broad, or one hundred and thirty-six acres of surface. It begins in the lake at Bird Island, and is continued by a mole of double

wooden cribs filled in with stone, eighteen feet wide, and two thousand nine hundred and fifteen yards to Squaw Island, raised from one to four feet above the surface of the river, rising gradually towards the north, and is continued across the Island one thousand four hundred and thirty yards, to a dam one hundred and sixty-five yards long, that connects the island with the main, and raises the water in the harbor four and a half feet to the lake level, and has a lock to pass vessels out and in. The depth of water in the harbor, fifteen feet; the medial distance from the shore to Squaw Island is forty, and the mole uniting the islands, sixteen rods. The harbor forms part of the canal that leaves it opposite Bird Island, and passes into Buffalo. From the head of the water at the dam, four and a half feet, great water-power is available, and here are four flouring mills with twenty-five runs of stones, one grist mill, two saw, a stave, carding, and fulling mill, one iron foundery, and steam engine manufactory, a distillery, and grinding mill, a saw and shingle mill, and the unemployed power here is enough to drive one hundred mills. There are five stores, five taverns, and three hundred and fifty dwellings, and two thousand one hundred inhabitants. A team ferry-boat plies across to Waterloo.

Fort Schlosser was a stockade erected by the British in the war of 1756-9, on the east bank of the Niagara River, at the mouth of Gill Creek, one mile and a half above the Niagara Falls village, and just above the commencement of the rapids. This is the upper-landing place for the portage around the Falls, to Lewiston at the foot of the mountain ridge, seven miles at the lower landing in Niagara River. The ridge itself is three hundred and fifty or sixty feet above the river, and twenty-five feet higher than the land at Schlosser, and is the highest land between the Tonnawanta and Ontario. The fort was surrendered to the United States by the British in 1796. It has recently become notorious for the capture and destruction of the steam-boat *Caroline*, (that was moored at this wharf,) by a detachment of British soldiers and seamen from Chippewa, that cut her loose, after killing those that resisted, towed her out in the current, when she was sucked into the rapids, and went over the falls.

Navy Island contains three hundred acres, is of a shape nearly triangular, and is the first island between the grand rapids and Grand Island, and being nearest to the Canadian shore, and west of the main channel of the Niagara, it is at-

ached to Upper Canada, the boundary line between the United States and Canada being in the middle of the main channel from lake to lake. The recent military occupation of this island in the winter and spring of 1838, for a short period during the disturbances in Canada and along the frontier of the United States, by a lawless band of outlaws and desperadoes, has given this small island more celebrity or notoriety than it deserves from its fearful position a few hundred yards above the grand cataract. Below this, and to Goat Island, and from Chippewa over to Schlosser, a distance of two and a half miles, any boat venturing impiously to intrude upon the green and glassy surface of the alluring stream, will be drawn into the rapids, and swept down to inevitable destruction.

Above the *Rapids*, the *two branches* of the Niagara River that enclose Grand Island and the other small islets, come sweeping down with infinite grandeur, and unite their waters for the last time previous to their absorption into the angry confusion of the surge and rocks that form the rapids. The motion of the immense ocean of waters is grand, is magnificent, full of its conscious power, and profound and overwhelming influence, advancing with increased impetus to the brink of the first shelf of the descent, when the entire breadth of the river, about thirteen thousand feet, is received into the rocky glen or rapid slope, and sinks from ledge to ledge, arrayed in huge and wild masses to receive the shock of this tumbling ocean in its passage over a sloping distance or inclined plane of perhaps four thousand feet, and of only fifty-five of actual descent, but the impregnable and immovable rocky asperities of the underlying rocky foundation are such as to raise, toss, scatter, and part this phalanx of waters into an infinite variety of jettis, cascades, and forms of beauty and sublimity ever new, changeable, and wonderful. To the uninitiated and unreflecting traveler and spectator, that perhaps approaches this scene for the first time, from the south or west, or from a distance up the great Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior, over such interminable oceans and inland seas of fresh water; and sees the whole moving mass here concentrated, swallowed up in a sudden subsidence or opening, and plunging into a tremendous abyss in the solid rock, three hundred feet deep, and a mile broad, the sight is overwhelming and magnificent.

"I will remember the works of the Lord. Thou art the God that doest wonders. The waters saw thee, O God, the

depths also were troubled, the earth trembled and shook. Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known."

The *best positions* for viewing the rapids are near *Chippewa*, on the road down from Buffalo, on the west from Erie and Waterloo. This is preferable in some respects, and gives the first bird's-eye view as the River descends, and the traveler ascends to the hill north of Chippewa. The table rock is another favorable place to get a front and complete panoramic coup d'œil, or in walking along the shore on either side, or in crossing the bridges to Bath and Iris Islands; but the best and most central, is from the upper extremity of Goat Island at the tower, &c. But artists may, and do differ even in this respect; but to many travelers, the young especially, the rapids are the most attractive and delightful part of the enjoyments of a few days at Niagara. To the older and more mature, the crescent, or Horse Shoe Fall, and the one on the United States side may be more gratifying.

Looking at the rapids from Goat Island, directly up stream, with the full angle or inclined plane of the rapids before us, the endless torrent comes booming and bounding onward in high curling and dashing waves, that would soon annihilate all opposition, but the abrupt subsidence of one ledge and plain below the preceding one, breaks the continuity of the wave, and it darts onward in another wave and plunges till it reaches the precipice. The water passing down, between the main eastern shore and Bath Island, under Porter's bridge, is clear, and not very deep, but runs with such amazing rapidity and violence over the rocky bottom, that in crossing the bridge, the whole structure appears to be moving bodily towards the precipice with fearful effect; in fact, strong nerves are required in the traverse.

The *Falls* on the eastern or *American side of Iris Island*, are one hundred and sixty-four feet in the leap, and nine hundred feet wide between the Island and the main, and descend perpendicularly in one clear, glassy sheet, that is partially broken into foam in its course, and is enveloped and obscured in mist about one third or one fourth of the height from the river below. The Fall between Luna and Iris Island is two hundred and forty feet wide of itself, and is included in the total estimate of nine hundred feet.

To appreciate the magnitude and beauty of the Fall nearest to the stairs, (six hundred and sixty feet in width,) de-

scend the stairs, and at various stages or steps, pause and contemplate the astounding, and terrific, and all-absorbing scene; the world of waters, that never ceases to plunge into the river on the rocky masses, and to glance off its spray and scattered waters with extreme violence, like small shot, with a force that defies all attempts to face it unmoved, or unshrinking, or to resist the whirls of air that issue forth with stifling effect. When at the bottom of the stairs, and of the slope at the edge of the river, again direct the eye upward to the falling waters, that from this position are beheld with the fullest effect, and also the lofty precipices of rock mantled with the moss and hue of ages.

The bridge extending over the American rapids to Bath Island, is four hundred and seventy-six feet long, resting on piers or cribs of logs, filled in with heavy masses of stone, and the bridge from Bath to Goat Island is two hundred and seventy-two feet, made in a similar manner. Bath Island is four hundred feet long, and has two acres of surface, and the toll-house, (fee twenty-five cents,) and a large paper mill and a bathing-house, and is connected by bridges with two islets, the *Ship* and *Brig*, that brave the fury of the rapids, and help to ward off or break its force, in impinging against the Bath and mill, and thus the most is made of these mere stepping-stones, bridges, and rapids, and after stepping in the toll house, and examining the album kept there, and inserting name and date, pass over the last bridge to

Iris, or *Goat Island*, that is half a mile long by a quarter wide, and contains seventy-five acres of land, well timbered with beech, oak, maple, &c. mantled with vines and cryptagamous shrubs or plants, that have most judiciously and commendably been preserved by the estimable and worthy proprietor in their pristine wildness and native beauty. A neat walk covered with gravel has been made near the skirts of the island, and vistas introduced to direct the stranger, and to exhibit the whole surrounding scenery to the best possible effect. This *enchanted little island*, enthroned in the midst of the furious rapids, and parting aside even the gigantic tide of inland waters that presses upon it with threatening vehemence and resistless power, is now rendered intensely interesting to the visitant, by the facilities in approaching it over the formerly impassable and virgin rapids, that had rarely before been attempted by the daring effort of man, but are now

safely open to public curiosity and gratification, and the hitherto hidden beauties and secluded recesses of this charming spot satisfactorily unfolded. There is not, there cannot be under the arch of heaven a more interesting or awful place in all creation than this, with its auxiliaries of surpassing glory and grandeur, to irradiate, guard, ennoble, and animate the panorama that here environs the awe-struck, astonished, and delighted traveler.

After making the circuit of the island, and gazing for the first time upon the prominent features and wonders of the place, in a transient or cursory manner, return to the northern face of the precipice, and explore the *Biddle Stairs*, but first cross the romantic, ticklish bridge to *Luna Island*, on the verge of this central Fall, that, when viewed from the Canadian shore, at a mile's distance, is almost lost, or appears but a mere ribband in comparison with its more imposing neighbors, yet it is of the very reputable width of two hundred and forty feet, presenting a snow-white, foaming appearance, that if it stood alone, like the Montmorency at Quebec, would of itself have numerous pilgrims to lavish their admiration upon it, but here it is, subsidiary and subordinate, yet eminently graceful and pleasing.

The *front of the precipice* of Iris Island is of limestone tinge, with the venerable hues of time, presenting a uniform facade of about a thousand feet facing to the north-west, and separating by its intervention the two grand divisions of the falls, the eastern and the western, and it rises to the height of one hundred and eighty-five feet above the level of the circular gulf below the falls. The visit of the patriotic Nicholas Biddle, Esq. of Philadelphia, to this place in 1829, resulted in his causing this capital stairway to be constructed at his individual expense, for the public accommodation, and we hope that it will be carefully retained, and repaired, and preserved.* This erection facilitated and opened up to public admiration many new points of view, before unapproachable.

The first flight of steps continues for forty feet, when a six-sided or hexagon building, or inclosure of wood, sixty-five

* Dr. Hungerford, of Troy, was instantly killed at the falls. In company with Lindsey, the guide, he had descended the Biddle stair-case on the American side, and was standing near the water, when a mass of rock, weighing several tons, fell from the bank above, a height of one hundred and fifty feet, directly upon him. Lindsey suffered a severe contusion on his left arm, but was not otherwise injured.

feet high, containing the spiral, or geometrical, or cork-screw staircase of ninety steps, lands the giddy explorer upon the top of the debris at the foot of the mural precipice, whence three traces or walks diverge to new points of attraction. One is directed to the water's edge, *eighty feet* still farther downward. Another to the left, or west, to the great *Horse-Shoe* or *Crescent Fall*. Another to the right, conducts to the most singular novelty of all, the *cave*, or head quarters of *Æolus*, the god of the winds; and no name could be better chosen, or more literally correct, for the cavern is fifty feet wide, one hundred high, and one hundred and twenty deep, and is directly behind the centre fall, and the visiter may safely approach to, and pass through it, and emerge at the foot of *Luna Island*, and wonder at his temerity in risking it; and after looking around from this peculiar position, he can even advance, with cautious steps and slow, and perchance have a peep behind the watery curtain that veils over the rock that sustains the main portion of the American fall; but let him not attempt, in a fool-hardy spirit, to risk any further progress towards the American stairs, that are yet several hundred feet beyond him, with a crushing weight of water also eternally falling from a height of one hundred and sixty-four feet, equal to an ordinary church steeple. The noise both at this point and at the cavern of the winds, where it is increased and reverberated with ten-fold violence, is utterly astounding and overwhelming, and is *sui generis*; and it is glory enough to any one to have been thus far successful; and if satisfied, let him retrace his steps to the foot of the *spiral Biddle*, and try his luck in a descent towards the western curtain or crescent fall, that sometimes permits the veil of its mysteries also to be penetrated for a short distance with similar impunity. Let us now ascend the one hundred and eighty-five feet to the summit of the *Iris*, and find our way westward by the gravelled walk to the

Terrapin Bridge and Tower, the most daring achievement to construct, reaching three hundred feet out from the *Iris Island*, including the extension up the stream of the rapids, and the *Tower of stone*, forty-five feet high, done in 1833, with steps leading and winding up to the top, and from the dizzy summit that is thus safely attained, the crowning feat of human and almost super-human efforts, undertakings, or even imaginings, the traveler that has thus far periled his life to gratify his vain and unbounded curiosity, and that

says to himself, what man has done, man can do; and what others have here seen, I may also behold, perhaps, in safety, will not, perchance, withdraw from the bridge or the tower without claiming the full fruition of his gratified curiosity as the reward of his hazardous and expensive journeyings. Of all appalling and terrible sites for man to place himself upon to glut his insatiable, presumptuous desire to draw near to the very brink of destruction, and to cast a withering, heart-sickening, trembling look into a vortex where no human being can enter but to be instantly passed into the abyss of eternity, this is the threshold to contemplate, creating horrible sensations of mingled fear and shrinking back of the mind and heart, in thus madly venturing into the presence of the power that can annihilate in a moment all that thus profanely intrude into the domains between time and eternity.

The site of the tower is but four or five hundred feet from the deepest portion of the main channel of dark green water, that occupies the crescent-shaped part of the Niagara, and is also within a few feet of where the rapids are tumbled over the precipice in a sea of milk-white foam and richness of inimitable perfection and beauty. A very slight illustration of this appearance may be cited, by comparing it in a small way with the descent of a heavy mass of snow from the roof of a tall house in a thawing day, when the mass comes down in successive and ponderous, yet feathery-looking pure white volumes, with a splash and crash that causes a rebound one third of the way back towards the place from whence it came. Now the *whole facade* of the principal fall is two thousand one hundred feet, and this is eternally curtained with this feathery foam, as before described, except the deep crescent, and is falling from a height of one hundred and sixty-four and one hundred and fifty-eight feet on the west and east respectively, and the pure majestic central current of the deep mysterious crescent, with a width of two hundred feet, appears to roll onward like a gigantic wheel, clogged and moving with difficulty in a huge snow drift, advancing towards the spectator. This grand effect is produced from the fact that this ocean fresh water flood does not descend exactly perpendicular, but from the angle of inclination of the rapids, (above fifty-one feet in four thousand, or about three-quarters of a mile,) the huge, lumbering mass of waters forms a waving arch of unknown thickness, on whose pure bosom of dark green may be traced white spots, or banks of foam, that

can be followed by the eye for several seconds, as they descend over the snaky undulations of the deep crescent, and are lost in the spray and obscurity of the profound gulf below.

The ferry or passage over the river to and from the American stairs and Canadian shore is perfectly safe, and the water is much less agitated than would be expected so near the falls; but this is the only safe crossing between the falls and Lewiston, six miles below, as the fury of the rapids, eddies, and whirlpools below the ferry, render all attempts to cross elsewhere impracticable, and madness itself.

Estimates of the quantity of water discharged vary from forty to eighty-five millions of tons the hour, and the depth of the pool, at two hundred and fifty feet. A carriage-way is now making through the lofty banks on either side to the plain above.

The *Crescent or Horse-Shoe Fall*, comprising in magnitude and volume seven-eighths of the entire body of the Niagara River, is reserved to the last in our description, and the customary and nearest approach to it from this shore is by advancing to the edge of the celebrated *table rock* near enough to touch the skirt of the rapids that come sweeping around on the right hand; this, however, is in fact a most perilous stand, a mere *shelf* or *thin slab* of limestone rock but two or three feet in thickness at its extremity, where it overarches out forty feet beyond the general line of the rock beneath, and fissures already indicate that a speedy disruption of this part of the rock will inevitably occur; but such is the heedlessness of man, and the thoughtlessness and intrepidity of the ladies, that this is always the flirting-place where visitors take their initiation into the wonders of the raging and conflicting elements beneath.

Perhaps as good a view with a better fore-ground may be obtained, combining perfect safety also, by resorting a few rods north beyond the stairs, receding more from the brink. The *stairs* near by, like the Biddle, are spiral, winding round a tall pine centre that reaches to the *top* of the *debris* of rocks that have fallen from the arch above, from whence a path leads along to the right, at the foot of the precipice, with over-hanging arch of rock forming a complete semi-vault, open on the left to the panorama of the entire chasm and its body of billowy ocean floods.

To pass behind the falls to termination rock, visitors apply at the museum or shanty near the stairs to the keeper, who

must have his regular fees, and will furnish suitable dresses and a guide that will descend with and conduct the adventurous explorer, with many cautions as to his conduct, step by step, taking hold of his hand, or holding by a narrow ledge of slate rock, and with a very slimy, eel-covered, precarious, slippery footing; and as the falling body of water is neared, the breath is with difficulty preserved from the whirls of air and spray that issue forth from the cavern, blinding and drenching at the same time; but, once in for it, onward is the word, groping in uncertainty and obscurity for one hundred and fifty-three feet, till you can proceed no farther, a projecting rock completely barring all further progress, when the guide puts his mouth close to your ear, and says "*look up*;" the eye is cast up to see the thick vault of waters that comes like a deluge, near enough to allow a play or space of a few feet between the vast body of water and the solid rock, when it becomes requisite to turn about on a pivot, as it were, and return, feeling and groping along by the same path you came, and after emerging into full light and freedom, and ascending the stairs and re-dressing, &c. the guide gives you the famous certificate of your having gone to the termination rock, and that affair is finished.

Grand Route by the Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo.

Albany, the present seat of the state government, was first settled in 1612 to 1614, after Henry Hudson had made his exploration in 1609, up as far as the Mohawk river, in search of a passage to the East Indies, for the Dutch company at Amsterdam. It was, at that period, a bold and hazardous attempt to plant a colony of Europeans even on the coast of the Atlantic, and still more such a distance in the interior; but the advantages that it presented for trading with the aborigines for furs and peltries, in this their strong hold, outbalanced and quieted all objections and fears in the view of enormous gains to be realized by the traffic that was, for fifty years or more, carried on by the company as a close monopoly; indeed, for a long time no adventurer from the city of New Amsterdam, now New-York, was permitted to ascend the Hudson River for traffic, unless licensed specially for that purpose.

In 1664, the transfer of the colony to the English ensued, and the name of this spot was changed from New Orange to Albany, after the Duke of York and Albany, and a charter granted by the English Governor Dongan, defining the boundaries of the settlement, viz. one mile front on the Hudson, and extending back in a northwest direction, 13 to 14 miles, nearly over to the Mohawk River; a very *narrow* and yet liberal grant. The city is now divided into five Wards, and has a Mayor, ten Aldermen and Assistants. It is in north latitude $42^{\circ} 39'$ —and from the level of the river, has a front of a mile and three-quarters of compactly built spacious warehouses and dwellings, and extending west several blocks to Market-street, the main artery of the city from north to south, from which it rises gradually to Pearl through the central State-street to the termination at the public square and the Capitol, at an elevation of 150 feet, and at the western bounds of the summit level it attains 67 feet more, in all about 217 feet, thus giving the city, on approaching it by river, or from the east shore, a very enticing appearance, as it is presented on a tolerably steep acclivity that recedes from the river towards the west, and discloses its prominent edifices to the utmost advantage.

There are 100 streets, and a population by present estimate of 35,000—besides a fluctuating mass that arrive and depart daily by steam, stage, and cars, of several hundreds that are concentrated here as a focus—here are 21 churches, 12 hotels, 6 banks, total capital \$2,150,000—4 Insurance Companies, 14 charitable societies for various nations, and an Asylum, and 2 daily, 2 half weekly, 7 weekly, and 3 monthly papers—a County and the State Medical Society, Agricultural and Horticultural Society—an Apprentices' Library, a very superior Reading-room for young men, free to strangers, with lectures twice a week, and a debating society—the Athenaeum and a Library of ten thousand volumes. The Albany Academy for Females in Pearl north of State-street, is a building that pleases the eye by its beautiful white portico, and is said to be in high reputation. The Albany Academy, on the north side of the public square, is an expensive edifice of the reddish or brown sandstone, with a front of 90 feet, and three stories high, that cost near a hundred thousand dollars—it has Professors of the Latin and Greek, and of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and of Modern Languages—and there are 4 tutors.

The Albany Institute has its apartments in the Academy, a library of 2000 volumes, and ten thousand specimens in its museum in geology, mineralogy, botany, coins, and engravings. There are nine district schools, and seven thousand children instructed.

Stanwix Hall, built of granite, with a dome, and the Museum of white marble, at the corner of State and Market-streets, and the splendid *City Hall*, also of white marble, and with a gilded dome of unique appearance, on the east side of the public square, are all fine edifices, as is the *State House* near by.

The *Capitol*, where the State Legislature convene, and the rooms of the Chancellor and Supreme Court are held and the State Library is contained, and other places of public business, occupies the most prominent situation in the city, at the head of State-street, and has a portico of the Ionic order. There are portraits and busts in this edifice and in the City Hall. The Capitol is one hundred and fifteen feet long, ninety broad, and fifty high, and from its steps, or summit, is a most enchanting view of the Hudson River, and city, &c.

There are three Academies for females, and a classical school. The Baptist Church in Pearl and the Dutch in Beaver and Hudson-streets are entitled to notice as neat and tasteful edifices. There are Bible, Prayer Book, and Tract and Musical Societies, and a Theatre. The public square in front of the Capitol is well laid out, and has a costly iron railing.

The six or eight breweries, of noted excellence, produce to the value of half a million a year. Six iron works, \$226,000. Oil cloth, rope, cabinet, hollow and stone ware, snuff, tobacco, hats, carriages, sleighs, harness, plated and silver ware, coach lace, looking-glasses, types, morocco, sperm candles, &c. are all manufactured here.

A ride to Troy, Lansingburg, Waterford, Niskayuna, or the Shaker Settlement, six miles, and to the Cahoes Falls, on the Mohawk, and along the canal and double locks, and excavations, and dams, and aqueducts, will well repay the transient visiter, and occupy a day most agreeably. Stages ply to Troy on the hard macadamized road every half hour, fare 12½ cents. A view of the great avalanche that overwhelmed the inhabitants at the base of the hill, or rather to see the place it occupied at Troy, is of itself worth a visit, as well as the city itself, and its celebrated female school. Cars ply to Schenec-

tady four times daily, at eight, ten, three, and five—a ferry to Bath and to Greenbush—but the contemplated tunnel under the Hudson is not yet made.

Colloch's Mineral Spring, six hundred and seventeen feet deep, gives, on analysis, muriate and carbonate of soda, carbonates of lime, and magnesia, and iron, and acid, similar to the water of the Congress Spring at Saratoga. The spring, with the garden, &c. is worth a visit.

The Erie Canal Basin,

containing an area of thirty-two acres in the Hudson River, formed by the pier, eighty feet wide, and four thousand three hundred feet long, extending parallel with the shore to protect the entrance and exit of canal-boats at the lock, and afford facilities for reception and discharge of produce and merchandise in safety into the adjoining warehouses and sloops, is a work of great utility and of small expense, it having cost but \$130,000, and is very profitable to the proprietors. There are many steam-boats for carrying passengers between this city and New-York, that leave at seven in the morning and five in the afternoon, daily—others also to Troy, besides tow-boats.

In the spacious reservoir or basin, the grand portal or introduction to the Erie and Champlain canals, may usually be seen, in the business season, an assemblage of boats from the numerous towns and villages that border on the canals and the small interior lakes that are connected therewith, and intermingled with the river and coasting craft; here are motley groupes of freshwater and saltwater sailors and boatmen, besides the crews of the steamers that are usually ranged outside of the pier, and throngs of strangers and passengers hurrying to and fro across the bridges that lead from the city to the pier, amid carts and carriages, barrows and vehicles of all kinds, urging onward to extricate from the confused mêlée—this is peculiarly the case on the departure or arrival of the larger class of steamboats, when crowded by their several hundreds of passengers.

The tedious mode of traveling by canal between Albany, Schenectady, and Utica, has long since been supplanted by the rail-roads with their flying cars, as detailed at page 45; yet it may still be desired by some to trace the method adopted in

1825 by travelers, and used for several years, to examine this interesting portion of the canal, up the Hudson and branching off to the west in the valley of the Mohawk.

By departing from Albany, at an early hour in the morning, in one of the line boats bound for the west, though several hours are required to pass the twenty-eight and a half miles, and twenty-four locks, to *Schenectady*, yet to those that can spare the requisite time, and that are fond of this quiet, easy, safe mode of traveling, there is much to be seen in the distance to reward the curious stranger; and it can be enjoyed without fatigue, and at a trifling expense.

Passing out of the basin, by the first lock of eleven or twelve feet rise, a long reach or level of seven miles, with only one lock, is entered upon, that is parallel with, and but a few rods from the Hudson River on the east, and the beautiful garden and grounds of the Patroon, so called, (or Patron, or great land owner,) a descendant of the original Dutch patentee of the large manor of Rensselaerwyck, a very extensive tract on both sides of the Hudson, this being near the central point of the grant of twenty-four miles north and south on the river, and forty-two miles east and west, (one thousand and eight square miles, or six hundred and forty-six thousand one hundred and twenty-eight acres,) bounded by Massachusetts on the east, and by Schoharie county on the west, and by Schenectady, Saratoga, and part of Rensselaer counties on the north, and by Columbia and Greene counties on the south. This immense landed estate, except the city of Albany and other tracts owned by individuals, is the undoubted and clearly established and recognized property of the Van Rensselaer family, derived by their ancestor, Killian Van Rensselaer, that by permission of the Dutch Government in 1630, 1631, 1637, 1648, and 1649, purchased of the Indians; and these purchases were fully confirmed in 1641 by the government of Holland, and by that of England under Governor Dongan in 1685, on the 4th of March. The last of the Patroons, Stephen Van Rensselaer, died 1839, 26th January, at 4 P. M., the moment when the great hurricane was raging at New-York, and on the sea-board. The estate, that has been estimated at a value of several millions of dollars, will now be divided among the large family and heirs of the late Patroon.

At the termination of the first reach before stated, we are at or near *West Troy*, or Gibbonsville, opposite to the city of *Troy*, on the east side of the Hudson. Here are five hundred

and twenty dwellings, and three thousand five hundred inhabitants—the Bank of Watervliet, capital \$150,000—manufactories of various kinds, one of India rubber—side locks lead to the river, and a bridge to Tibbett's Island. The surplus water from the adjoining canal yields all the power required for mechanical operations, and may in some measure be considered as a suburb of Troy, and with that is identified in its growth and prosperity.

The *United States Arsenal* covers a large space, with the canal passing in close contiguity ; here are usually large stores of arms and munitions of war, skillfully and artfully arranged in neat brick or stone buildings, and some relics of the Revolutionary war are here to be seen, in cannon taken at Saratoga and Yorktown, and others of brass, of antique form, presented by the king of France.

Two locks, of eleven feet lift each, next conduct to a level of a mile or two that brings us to the junction of the Erie with the Champlain Canal, (leading north to Whitehall, sixty-three and a half miles ; see page 44,) and to the steps, or ridges, that are surmounted by nine locks, of eight feet lift each, that are formed of the white marble of Westchester county, and are ninety by fifteen feet in the chamber, as are all the original locks ; the boats are five minutes in getting through each lock, and the canal begins here to incline gradually to the north-west, and as it rises above the Hudson, there is a charming panoramic view of the hills back of Troy and Lansingburg, and of the low grounds and islands in the delta of the Mohawk.

The next three locks, of eight feet eight each, or twenty-six feet, is near the bridge that conducts, or connects, the road over the Mohawk to Waterford,—and from the bridge is a glimpse of the falls above and the dam that raises the river below, to enable the boats that are bound north to cross above the dam in the slack water, though at considerable hazard. The next two locks rise nine feet each, and in half a mile we encounter, for six hundred feet, the first deep cutting, viz. twenty-six feet, in transition argillite, and arrive by the side of the

Cahoes Falls—a Dutch church and a farming settlement, the *Boght* or *Cove* ; and the manufacturing village of the Cahoes company is here located, and contains a factory for cotton and woolen, and one for hosiery of cotton, linen, and woolen, on newly invented looms, one for edge tools, a mill for turning-

lathes, an iron foundery, a carpet factory, an Episcopal church, two taverns, and shops, and stores, and sixty dwellings. The falls are in full view of the village and of the canal, and have seventy-eight feet descent. Above the cataract, the left or north bank has an elevation of one hundred feet, and below it has one hundred and seventy feet of a slaty lead-colored rock, distorted and irregular in its outline. On the right or south shore above the falls the bank is low, but below it, eighty to ninety feet high. In some seasons, the bed of the Mohawk below the Cahoes Fall can be examined and walked over close to the foot of the cataract, though rough and full of holes and projections of the sharp angles and points of the slaty rock; at other times the whole face of the jagged rock, and of the bed below, is one tremendous torrent nine hundred feet wide, white with foam, presenting a spectacle of great sublimity.

A canal near two miles long, that leads out any desirable portion of the waters of the Mohawk, a half mile above the falls, to the various mills below, has a head and fall of one hundred and twenty feet, its channel in the first part being through slate rock, between the river and the Erie Canal, and then by a tunnel under the state canal to the west side, whence it is distributed as wanted, yielding six or seven successive falls of eighteen or twenty feet. The capital of the company, as incorporated, is half a million of dollars.

In half a mile onward, above the Cahoes, we meet four locks, with a rise of eight feet each, and a series of mills adjacent, and in two and a half miles onward we reach the *Lower Aqueduct* over the Mohawk River, of eleven hundred and twenty-eight feet in length, resting on twenty-six piers and abutments of stone, the trunk that contains the water being of wood. This transfers the canal to the north side of the Mohawk River, in the town of Half Moon, Saratoga county, along the base of the *Wat Hoix ridge*, for over two miles, to the famous *gap* of that name, that for forty rods runs through high walls of gray wacke slate.

Until this passage was discovered and determined upon, when the engineers were exploring the valley of the Mohawk for the best line to adopt, they were almost at a nonplus, when they beheld the difficulties and asperities of this vicinity on the south shore of the river, that is very forbidding in its aspect, being rock-bound and precipitous, and it was then that they determined to overcome and avoid all difficulties by carrying the canal twice across the river. The ravine was

eighty feet wide at the east and fifteen at the west, expanding in the middle as if to form a natural basin, with walls of solid rock. Beyond this for 80 rods, the *Wat Hoix* rapids in the Mohawk have a descent of ten feet, ruffling the surface of the water, and called by the Indians the *White Horse*, or the *Evil Spirit*. On the north the canal is bounded by a precipice of one hundred and forty-six feet, that in many places overhangs the canal, and is quite appalling to the sight. On the south is the river washing the bank of the canal, that is formed in a solid and masterly style.

Thence it is two miles to Fort's ferry on the old road from Albany to Ballston Spa, and one mile to the next lock of seven feet rise, and one mile to Vischer's ferry. One and a half miles bring us to a deep rock excavation, of thirty-two feet in the solid rock as before. The canal, for a considerable distance in the vicinity of *Wat Hoix*, is on the edge of the river, and a protecting solid wall of stone, smooth and at a low depressed angle, rises from the water's edge as the rapid current sweeps towards the falls.

The next two miles contain two locks, of nine feet rise each, and a guard lock and feeder of half a mile from the Mohawk, and a high bank of one hundred and thirty feet,—and in two miles farther we arrive at the *Upper Aqueduct* over the Mohawk, where the canal again recrosses to the south bank, seven hundred and forty-eight feet in extent, on sixteen piers of limestone, twenty-five feet above the river, the trunk of the canal of wood, as on the other. The coup d'œil here is very fine. Here are also three locks, of seven feet lift each, and in a short distance the old Alexander bridge, and mills, on the old Albany and Ballston road. The rock of gray wacke slate is in the county of Schenectady. Three miles farther we pass in front of *Union College*, and soon are in *Schenectady*. The view over the vale on entering is pleasing in the highest degree. The two edifices of the college are each two hundred feet long, and four stories in height, and six more are requisite to complete the plan. \$300,000 have been bestowed by the State, or rather permitted to be raised by lottery, for the benefit of this literary institution, but causing the most injury to society of any method that could be adopted to raise funds. There is a President, (Dr. Nott,) seven professors, a teacher of French and Spanish, and two hundred and eighty-five students. Annual expense, board in the hall, \$98, fuel and light \$8, washing \$6. There are three terms

in the year, and the expenses of each are payable in advance. The first settlement of this town was in 1620, by a colony of Dutch, to engage in the fur trade, in despite of the one at Albany; and this continued peaceably until 1661, when Arent Van Corlaer, and others, received a grant from the government on extinguishing the Indian title, and in 1664 surveys were made, and an inroad was effected by the Canadian French, but they lost their way and were near perishing from fatigue and famine; but Van Corlaer generously enabled them to return in peace, unmolested. In return for this generous and kind treatment, twenty-six years subsequently, namely, in 1690, the town, then composed of sixty-three houses and a church, was burned by a party of French and Indians, in the night of 8th February, killing and capturing most of the inhabitants; and this was repeated in 1748, and seventy citizens slain. A fire in 1819, on 17th November, destroyed one hundred and seventy buildings, but within a few years past the city has been prosperous, from the rail-road and canal that pass through it.

The city is on twenty streets, has nine places of public worship, two academies, a Lancaster and several select and district schools, six newspapers, two banks, capital \$385,000, an insurance company of \$100,000, twelve hundred houses, and about six thousand inhabitants,—an iron and a brass foundery, carpet, satin, and tobacco factory, a paper mill, &c. A covered bridge extends over the river one thousand feet. The rail-road bridge also runs north over the flats and causeway for three-fourths of a mile; thence the road to Ballston turns north-east four miles, thence northerly along the lake, entering the village, and crossing the Kynderossera by a good bridge, and thence to Saratoga—whole distance from Schenectady twenty-one and a half miles, nearly level, the greatest variation being only sixteen feet to a mile, the rails of wood, with iron plates, and the cost only \$300,000, with cars, engines &c.

The *canal passenger-boats* leave from this place at half past seven in the morning and half past six in the evening, and are eighteen to twenty hours to Utica. Price for the eighty miles, four cents per mile including meals. The next four miles, across the luxuriant flats of the Mohawk, takes us skirting along the base of the southern ridge to *Rotterdam*, passing two locks, of eight feet lift each. There are nine islands in the river, from two to one hundred and twenty acres,

that the *Binnekill* cuts off from the main. The village has two Dutch churches, one cotton factory of two thousand spindles, fifty looms that make four hundred thousand yards of goods and thirty thousand pounds of yarn annually, one carpet factory, two carding and cloth-dressing mills, four grist mills of three runs, and one iron casting furnace, and twenty-five dwellings. In a mile and three-quarters we come to the aqueduct over the *Plattekill*, that has a waterfall of about eighty feet in ten rods, with a perpendicular pitch of fifty feet, a vein of lead ore in a gangue of slate three quarters of a mile above the falls, that are a mile from the river. Thence in three and a quarter miles is another lock of eight feet, and in two and a quarter miles we are at the limit of the county of Schenectady, and enter upon Montgomery, and in one mile pass *Flint Hill*, a branch of the Catskill that is here pierced by the Mohawk, and on the north connects with the range that extend toward the sources of the Hudson River; the rock here is sandstone.

Three and a half miles are two locks, of eight feet rise each, and an aqueduct, and in three miles we arrive at the bridge over the Mohawk to Amsterdam, (see index and page 47.) The population here is of a mixed character, being descendants from Dutch, Germans, Irish, Scotch, &c. *Minaville*, or Yankee Street, four miles south of the canal on the Chuctanunda Creek, has a church of Presbyterians, a tavern, two stores, and forty dwellings. *Port Jackson* has three stores, two taverns, and twenty dwellings.

An aqueduct passes over the Chuctanunda Creek, that rises twelve miles south in the high region around Duanesburg and drives twenty mills. Its name is purely Indian, and means stony bottom. Another creek of the same name enters into the Mohawk on the opposite side of the river.

In four miles we pass two locks, one of eight and the other of four feet lift, and on the site of the eastern guard lock formerly stood Queen Anne's chapel and the old Mohawk castle. The Indians granted a tract of land for the use of the Episcopal missionary at this church, and with their beloved teacher fled to Canada during the revolutionary war, where he became a bishop, and the Indians sent back for their church bell.

Schoharie Creek, fifty miles from Albany,—though called a creek it is ten rods wide, and at times would pass for a respectable stream, being subject to great and sudden freshets from the Catskill mountain region, where it has its origin seventy

miles south,—is rapid in its course, and is bordered by lofty hills and precipices, and famous for its *drift* or *floodwood*, and that is the indication of the Indian name. It is the largest tributary of the Mohawk, and there are rich flats on its borders, one to two miles wide in Middleburgh, and *Schoharie*, the county seat, a small village, a court-house of stone, three stories high, county clerk's office, a Lutheran and a Dutch church, two academies, one hundred and twenty dwellings, five stores, three taverns, five mills; the old stone church served as a fortress when Brandt, and Butler, and Johnson attacked in the war of the revolution; and four miles north-east is *Ball's cave*, two hundred feet in depth, with numerous apartments, a lake thirty feet deep and half a mile long, an amphitheatre one hundred feet in diameter and one hundred high, the floor descending on all sides to the centre, the roof horizontal, its walls rich in stalactetic decoration. The entrance to this cavern is by a perpendicular descent of seventy-five feet, and is effected by ropes.

Fort Hunter, east side of the creek. The passage of the canal boats over the surface of the river just above the dam of twenty feet, is effected by means of a rope, or cable, worked by horses and wound round a drum, or cylinder, on the shore. If the rope should give way, the boat and passengers must go over the dam—but this seldom happens. The boat then enters a lock of six feet rise, on the west side of the Schoharie, and in two miles arrives at the canal house, of singular form, in Smithtown, or Glen, and to Isherkill aqueduct, and Arieskill dam and guard locks, and in two and a half miles to another lock of seven feet rise, nearly opposite Caughnawaga and Johnstown. (See index, and page 48.)

In six miles we cross the little aqueduct and basin opposite the *Little Nose*, and in one mile to *Anthony's Nose*, in the township of Root, and here we first encounter the primitive or gneiss rock in this valley. In the cliffs near the river is a cave that is said to penetrate several hundred feet into the bowels of the mountain, with the walls encrusted in the usual manner.

Spraker's basin, dam, and guard lock is two and a quarter miles beyond the nose, and in two and three-quarter miles is another lock of six feet rise, when we are at *Canajoharie* on the creek of that name, with a guard lock and a bridge across the Mohawk to Palatine. (See index and page 48.)

The *Canajoharie*, or Bowman Creek, rises in the ridge of

land that separates the valley of the Mohawk from the extreme head waters of the Susquehanna River, and in the valley south of this ridge, that may perhaps be a thousand feet above the river, is cradled the town of *Cherry Valley* and the beautiful *Otsego Lake*, that, at its outlet at Cooperstown, empties its pellucid waters into the charming valley of the Susquehannah, that meanders for several hundred miles in a southerly direction to reach the Chesapeake, and yet is only separated from the Mohawk by a roof, or slope, of mountainous land about ten miles broad. The fall of the Canajoharie Creek in its course of twenty miles is eight hundred feet or more. Its valley is overlooked with the greatest delight from the ridge just mentioned, east of Cherry Valley, and presents one of the most extensive and splendid landscapes in the State.

The rail-road from this to Catskill, seventy miles in a south-east direction, will pursue the base of the north-east face of the ridge. This village is a place of some trade, and has a factory for making cotton and woolen goods, a Dutch church, an academy, a library, two newspapers, four taverns, three distilleries, two flour and two saw-mills, seven stores, one hundred dwellings.

Canajoharie *Centre*, on the head of Bowman's Creek, has a Presbyterian church and a few dwellings, and here is the *Central Asylum* for the deaf and dumb.

In following our course for three and a half miles opposite to Stone Arabia (four miles in the interior, on the north bank) we meet with a lock of seven feet rise, and the guard lock on the *Otsquaga Creek*, in the town of Minden, and Fort Plain village. The Otsquaga Creek gushes from three springs, and has at its source power to drive three mills, is highly charged with calcareous matter, and has formed in its dell, tuffa and petrifications, and after a rapid descent to the north-east, through Minden, falls into the Mohawk at Fort Plain.

Minden township has a front of eight miles along the river, a surface most agreeably undulated with ridges and hills of a moderate height, and pleasant and fertile valleys, and fine alluvial tracts along the Mohawk and Otsquaga. It was early settled by Germans, and abounds in local names, viz. Dutch Town or the Dorf in the north, Fort Plain in the north-east, Gilsenberg in the centre, and Ford's Bath in the west, and the Bush in the south; there are two Dutch churches, and seven saw mills, and a fulling mill.

In three miles onward, a feeder comes in from the river

above the dam, and a lock of eight feet rise, and the dam and guard-lock opposite St. Johnsville in Oppenheim, and in two miles farther at Crous' is a lock of eight feet, and one and a half miles more we are opposite the mouth of East Canada Creek, and the Gulf bridge, on the rail-road, of one arch of one hundred and sixty feet span, elevated sixty feet above the water, and in two miles we enter another lock of eight feet rise, in the township of Danube.

A Mohawk castle and a church for the Indians, under the patronage of the English, formerly stood at the mouth of the *Nowadaga Creek*, that, with its dam, and guard-locks, and towpath of four hundred feet, is passed in a mile, and in two more the grave of General Herkimer, his brick house being seen on elevated ground:—he was slain in the Oriskany battle.

We are now drawing near to the most interesting portion of the Mohawk valley, the passage of the river through the rocky gulf or barrier. The defile is two miles long with an average breadth of six hundred yards, bordered by rocky and wood-clad hills of four hundred feet in height; the rocks are granite gneiss and hornblend, with calciferous sand rock overlaid by transition limestone.

The *Little Falls* of the Mohawk are so termed in contrast to the *greater* descent of the river at the Cahoes below, and this is one of those distinguished geographical positions that is presented in a far less picturesque form at the Wind Gap and Water Gap on the Delaware; at various places on the Susquehannah; at the union of the Shenandoah and Potomac in Virginia; and the passage of the Hudson through the highlands of New-York; though the volume of water in the places referred to may be vastly superior, and the natural outlines on a more magnificent scale; yet the combination of natural objects, with those of artificial creation by the labor and ingenuity of man, that are here brought into direct association and contrast, infinitely surpasses that of any other position in the United States. Here are brought into juxtaposition, side by side, the Erie Canal with its nest of locks, and the much admired aqueduct and road bridge immediately over the main chute of the Mohawk; the line of road also adjoining the canal on that side; then the river and the remains of the old flumes and locks of the original canal company; then the new line of rail-road, and the expensive rock excavations and embankments, and the old turnpike road on

the north side, hemmed in by perpendicular rocks that are almost grazed by the cars,—these arrest the attention of the admiring and wondering traveler, and if examination is made into the geological signs and marks that nature has implanted in indelible characters, so that he that flies may see, and he that “runs may read,” the student of natural science, and others that have even slightly attended to such subjects, must be impressed with the remarkable and striking features of the entire panorama.

The descent of the river in three-quarters of a mile is forty-two feet, the marble aqueduct is two hundred and fourteen feet long and sixteen wide, with walls fourteen feet high and four broad, upheld by one arch of seventy and two others of fifty feet span each, together with the abutments; a balustrade on the parapet renders it secure for passengers that may devote a short time to its examination. The adjacent village has a factory for making cotton and woolen goods, two furnaces for casting iron, two grist, two saw, two paper-mills, two tanneries, two machine-shops, one trip-hammer, one carding and dressing mill, four churches, two academies, a bank, capital of \$200,000, eleven lawyers, five physicians, two printing offices and papers, three hundred and fifty stone dwellings, that receive a supply of water in pipes from an elevated spring three hundred feet higher than the settlement. The land, or rock, formerly was held for many years by a Mr. Ellis, an Englishman, disinclined to improve or sell until recently. It has been purchased by a gentleman of New-York, R. Ward. It is seventy-nine miles from Albany, twenty from Utica.

There are five locks within a mile, of eight feet lift each, and in the river and on the bank of the canal are huge rocky masses and pillars of grotesque water-worn forms, and for a long distance near here the canal is supported by a wall of masonry that encroaches boldly on the bed of the river, and the deck of the canal boat affords an excellent view, in passing through the locks of this famous mountain gorge, that at first was beheld by the canal contractors with dismay, from the difficulties that were anticipated at this spot in forming a trench or line in such a knotty, contracted glen, and two or three years were allowed by the canal commissioners, and supposed to be necessary for the excavation and construction; but it was effected in three months by some unexpected facilities, or some new wholesale method of blasting, by which

masses of eighty to one hundred tons were thrown out at a time by a profuse quantity of gunpowder—the explosions rent asunder the face of the mountain, and shook the country for miles around like an earthquake.

After passing through the second of the locks, we leave the ravine, and also the gneiss rock, and the last seen for some time as we go west, then pass in two and a half miles three locks, of eight feet lift each, and in four and a half miles, two more locks at the *German Flats*, one of eight and one of nine feet rise, near a stone church used as a fortress, and Fort Herkimer, and in one mile we arrive opposite the mouth of *West Canada Creek*, on the north side of the Mohawk, that comes down the Trenton Falls, (see index, p. 53.) The flats are celebrated for their fertility, but are not superior to many regions farther west, and have lost their exclusive character, since the western States of the Union have become more familiarly known.

A canal has been cut around the *Wolf rift* in the Mohawk, one and a half miles in length, giving water power. *Mohawk*, a village of thirty dwellings, and a few stores, is one mile south, and a post-office called Paine's Hollow. A bridge here leads over to *Herkimer*, three-quarters of a mile north, that has a neat Dutch and Methodist church, and a brick courthouse, and stone jail, and county clerk's office, one hundred and twenty dwellings, five taverns and stores, and a hydraulic company, that have, at the expense of forty thousand dollars, cut a canal, and constructed extensive works.

After passing in a short distance through an extensive dug way in a high hill of clay and sand, is another bridge, a lock of eight feet rise, and another of the same at Fulmer's Creek aqueduct, and in one and a half miles we pass Steel's Creek aqueduct and feeder, and in one and a quarter miles, two locks, of eight feet rise each, and in three-quarters of a mile, the aqueduct over Myer's Creek, and are at *Frankfort*, a village of fifty dwellings, two churches, a Presbyterian and Baptist, two taverns, seven stores, a furnace that makes iron ware to the value of thirty thousand dollars a year, and a factory for cotton and woollen goods and machinery. The rail-road is here on the south side of the Mohawk to Utica.

The *long level* of sixty-nine and a half miles without a lock, here commences, and extends westward through Utica, Whitestown, Rome, Verona, Lenox, Sullivan, Manlius, to *Lodi*, near Syracuse. This portion of the canal was the





easiest, and the first made. It is the *longest canal level* known, and is a remarkable feature in the geography of the country, as it follows a prolonged extent of table land from the upper waters of the Mohawk, along the south of the Oneida Lake, towards the Onondaga River and Lake Ontario.

In six miles we pass Ferguson's Creek aqueduct, and in one mile Clark's Creek aqueduct on four arches, and in two miles we are at *Utica*. This city has a population of twelve thousand, sixteen places of public worship of all the sects, four academies or high schools, forty-three schools, a Lyceum, and Medical Society, and Mechanical Association, with lectures, models, &c. a library, and another for apprentices, and also the Young Men's Association, reading and news-room, and library, with debates, and lectures on literary and scientific subjects. Their room, &c. open to all strangers. A museum, three banks, capital one million five hundred thousand dollars, an insurance company, capital two hundred thousand dollars, three political and three religious newspapers, a theatre, twenty-one inns, including several spacious hotels. §

The line of rail-road is now complete from Albany to Auburn. Passengers can now leave New-York at five o'clock, be in Utica at three o'clock the next afternoon, at Syracuse at six, at Auburn at eight, and at Rochester at five o'clock the next morning, and then to Buffalo via Batavia in twelve hours—arriving there at five o'clock—FORTY-EIGHT hours from New-York.

The rail-road hence to Schenectady is described at p. 45 to 52. This is a famous point for the divergence of roads, stages, and canals, to all parts of the State. Hundreds of canal boats, laden with the productions of the interior, are constantly passing to the east, and others with foreign merchandise to the west. This is a net that catches both ways, and passengers here usually leave the canal, from its tediousness or monotony, and adopt some new mode of conveyance.

This city has a mayor, twelve aldermen, four justices, and four wards ; is distant from New-York two hundred and thirty-seven miles, Albany ninety-three, Rochester one hundred and forty, Buffalo two hundred and two, Ithaca ninety-six, Oswego on Lake Ontario seventy-six, Sackett's Harbor ninety four, Ogdensburg one hundred and forty-five.

The city is on the south side of the Mohawk, and occupies a slope that faces to the north-west, rising in the rear of the city to an eminence of considerable interest, and overlooking

the valley of the Mohawk for miles towards Whitestown, Rome, the Oneida Lake, &c. with the heights that lead to Trenton Falls fronting the spectator on the north and east.

Much of the exciting interest involved in the history of the wars of 1756, and 1776 to 83, as to the border and partizan warfare of those days, is derived from this vicinity, as in the siege of Fort Schuyler, that was situated near the depôt and bridge at the foot of the main-street.

Oneida County, that we are now in, contains nineteen large cotton factories, capital about eight hundred thousand dollars, and having thirty-three thousand two hundred and thirty-four spindles, and making five million six hundred and ninety-seven thousand five hundred yards in a year, and use one million eight hundred and sixty-three pounds of cotton. Terms of the *Supreme* and of the *United States Circuit Courts* are held here.

The Chateaugua hills in the north-east, in Remsen, between Trenton Falls and the Black River, are eight hundred and forty feet high, and south of that, the Hassencleaver Mountain in Deerfield and Marcy rises from eight hundred to one thousand two hundred feet from a base of eight or nine miles broad, and a chain twenty miles long; and in the south, the ridge that divides the waters of the Susquehannah from those of the Mohawk is one thousand six hundred and twenty-nine feet above tide, and the summit level of the Chenango Canal, at the head of the river, is seven hundred and six feet above the Erie Canal.

The central part of the county that we pass through as we leave Utica, is remarkably depressed below the country to the south and north-east. The vale in its western portion, including the head of the Oneida Lake, is from ten to twelve miles broad, but along the Mohawk, only two to six miles. The great cedar swamp south of Rome is three miles broad, and from the head of the Oneida Lake to the Rome summit east, thirteen miles; the rise is sixty feet, and on the north and south sides of the lake it is equally gradual in a few miles.

The *Oneida Lake* is twenty-one miles long, east to west, and three to five wide, three hundred and seventy-six feet above tide, and one hundred and forty-five above Lake Ontario, and its area is seventy or eighty square miles. It abounds with salmon, bass, pike, cat fish, duce, suckers, perch, eels, &c. Fort Royal block-house stood at the entrance of Wood Creek, and Fort Brewerton at the west end of the lake.

The outlet, or the Oneida River, twenty rods wide at the

old French Fort, winds sixteen miles to attain eight of westing, and forms, at its junction with the Seneca, the Oswego River.

The *Oneida Lake Canal* extends from the Erie Canal in Verona to Wood Creek, three and three-quarter miles, cost seventy thousand dollars; has one guard and seven lift locks, fall fifty-seven and a half feet, locks ninety-six by fifteen and a half. To return the water that is drawn from the Erie Canal, an equivalent is provided by a feeder from the Oneida Creek at the castle, three and a quarter miles long, with a lock of four feet lift, and guard gate. The feeder intersects the Erie Canal five miles west of the Oneida Lake Canal.

Resuming our western route on leaving Utica, the canal winds along the level region above referred to, and in three and a quarter miles we arrive at the *Saughdaquada* or Sauquoit Creek and aqueduct, near the village of *Whitestown*, the nucleus of the first settlement beyond Albany, in 1788. It is a *half-shire* or place of the courts, in part for this county with Rome. Here is a Presbyterian and Baptist Church, Harvey's cotton factory, a brick court-house, a prison, one hundred dwellings, neat and pleasing to the eye, four stores.

The *Oneida* (manual labor) *Institute* requires three hours' labor per day from each student, as conducive to health, on the farm of one hundred and fourteen acres on the left or west bank of the Sauquoit Creek, in full view. The buildings are of wood, eighty-two by thirty-two, and forty-eight by forty-eight, both three stories high, including in the latter edifice a chapel, lecture-room, library, reading-room, dining hall, and family rooms. Another edifice forty by twenty-eight feet, is the kitchen and steward's departments. Students of fifteen to the upper class, and from ten to fifteen to the juvenile.

The *Sauquoit* Creek abounds with water power. It rises on the high lands in Paris, and runs eighteen miles north-west, and is bordered by rich lands. *York-ville*, three and a half miles from Utica, has three large cotton factories, one machine shop, three stores, one tavern, a Presbyterian and a Methodist church, and one hundred dwellings.

Two and three-quarter miles onward, we arrive at *Oriskany* Creek and *village*, having an Episcopal and a Presbyterian church, two woollen factories, (the Oriskany and the Dexter,) a grist and a saw mill, three taverns, six stores, and sixty dwellings.

Eight miles we arrive opposite *Rome*, another of the half-shire towns seen at a distance to the north, together with the United States Arsenal on the old canal.

Rome occupies the site of Fort Stanwix, that cost in 1758 two hundred and sixty-six thousand four hundred dollars, and is on the *summit level* between the ocean and Lake Ontario, (*four hundred and thirty-five feet above tide at Albany*,) having the Mohawk River on the east and Wood Creek on the west, near the Erie Canal, from which a branch extends through the village, two miles to the Mohawk, being part of the work of the old Western Navigation Company, of 1796. *Rome* has two Presbyterian, one Episcopal, one Methodist, and one Baptist church, an academy, and several select schools, a brick court house, a prison, the United States Arsenal, of stone, and wooden barracks going to decay, a cotton and a woollen factory, a bank, capital one hundred thousand dollars, flouring and saw mills, and three hundred and fifty dwellings, and five thousand inhabitants, and is a thriving, prosperous village. *Hawley's Basin*, three miles west from *Rome*, on the Erie Canal, has six houses.

Verona Centre, on the Erie Canal, is nine miles from *Rome*, and two south of Wood Creek, has a warehouse, store, tavern, and six dwellings. New London, also on the canal, seven miles from *Rome*, has two taverns, four stores and forty dwellings, and is the depôt for lumber from Salmon River and Fish Creeks. Andover has a store, tavern, and twelve dwellings.

The *Oneida Sulphur Springs*, half a mile south-west from the village, with its spacious hotel, is a fashionable resort in summer. The glass factory in *Verona* has made twenty thousand dollars' worth annually. Three miles beyond, we cross the *Oneida Creek* and valley by an aqueduct of one hundred and twenty feet, and embankments; together four hundred feet long, and from twenty to twenty-six feet high. The creek enters the *Oneida Lake* at the south-east corner, and is the dividing line between this and Madison county, that we now enter upon. Three miles from the *Oneida Creek*, we pass *Lenox* furnace, and basin, and landing, and in two miles further, are at *Canastota Village*, creek and basin, thirty-six miles from *Utica*, and fourteen from *Morrisville*, the county seat to the south-east. It has a Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, and a Baptist church, one hundred and twenty dwelling houses, a high school, several forwarding merchants,

groceries, four stores, four taverns, and is a lively business place. A small village is passed in four miles, and in four miles farther, we arrive at *Chitteningo Creek*, aqueduct, basin, and feeder, with a side cut of one and a half miles to the village of that name, four locks, of six feet rise each. The village of *Chitteningo* has one hundred and fifty dwelling houses, three churches, a Dutch, Presbyterian, and Methodist, a woollen factory, that uses annually one hundred thousand pounds of wool, made into broadcloths and cassimeres. There are also flouring, gypsum, water lime, and saw mills, a furnace, trip hammer, &c. In the hills near the canal in this vicinity, is an abundance of limestone, water or hydraulic cement, lime, and gypsum. Iron ore is said to be in the bogs. (See also p. 58, and for Cazenovia and Lake.)

Eight miles more we are in Onondaga County, at *Manlius Landing*. The village of that name, being four miles to the south on Limestone Creek, has one hundred and fifty dwellings, a cotton factory, several grist and saw mills, six stores. *Fayetteville*, on the north branch of the Seneca turnpike, and by the feeder of the Erie Canal, eight miles from Syracuse, has three churches, seventy-five dwellings, six stores, four taverns, and two mills. *Kirkville* is a thriving village on the canal. Three miles beyond the last landing is a *side cut* to *Orville*, and from this is five and a quarter miles to *Lodi*, being at the *western termination* of the *long level* that began at Frankfort, in *Herkimer County*.

The *Syracuse Academy*, a splendid brick edifice four stories high, with an observatory, occupies the most prominent place on the left foreground as we wind around the last hill, and come suddenly in sight of this fine city, with the canal here beginning to be enlarged on the new plan of eighty feet wide, and eight or ten deep, new locks, &c. The academy has spacious ornamental grounds and garden attached, with terraces in front, facing west towards the city, that has an imposing appearance as we draw near to its lofty, spacious warehouses, and ranges of brick edifices, and neat suburban private dwellings. There are seven hundred houses, and four thousand five hundred inhabitants; and the *Syracuse House*, of brick, four stories, fronting on Water and Salina-streets, is one of the best hotels in the State, and is thronged with company; the Onondaga County bank is in the adjoining building, and also the *post office*.

The intelligent stranger that arrives at Syracuse, and does

not inconsiderately neglect to look about him, but spends a day or two in an active examination of the localities in this city and its vicinity, will derive much gratification from seeing the springs of salt water that rise in great volumes on the immediate bank of the *Onondaga* (a fresh water) Lake, and in tracing the modes and means used in boiling or evaporating this strong brine, that in forty-five to fifty-five gallons produces a bushel of pure salt, while the sea water on our coast takes *three hundred and sixty gallons* to make seventy-five pounds of salt! In 1835, the quantity of salt here made was two million two hundred and twenty-two thousand six hundred and ninety-four bushels; duty, six cents a bushel, amount one hundred and eighteen thousand three hundred and sixty-four dollars. In 1833, when the duty was twelve and a half cents, and only one million eight hundred and thirty-eight thousand six hundred and forty-six bushels were made, the duty was two hundred and twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and sixty dollars. The principal springs are at Salina and Geddes. At Salina the well is twenty-two feet deep, and ten in diameter, and supplies the works at Salina, Liverpool, and Syracuse.

Salt springs are found for an extent of a hundred and eighty miles from Vernon, Oneida County, to the Niagara River, but only those in Onondaga and Cayuga are profitably worked. The whites derived their knowledge of the salt springs from the Indians, and by lowering an iron vessel to the spring on Mud Creek, then submerged by fresh water a few feet, the salt water was obtained, and the same process was used to supply the first settlers until other springs were discovered. There is a difference in the supply by its diminishing in drought, but with improved machinery for pumping, a more rapid influx of brine has been produced, with an increase of strength from twenty to twenty-five per cent. standing at thirteen degrees on the hydrometer of Beaume, of which the point of saturation is twenty-two degrees.

Large quantities of this salt is sent to Canada by the Oswego Canal, and to the western states. In boring for rock salt two hundred and fifty feet deep here, no fossil salt or saliferous rock was passed, but cemented gravel, and the brine increased in strength as the depth continued.

The salt mines in Poland are worked at the depth of seven hundred and fifty feet, and those of Eperies at nine hundred and ninety feet, and here, also, no doubt, beds of it will eventu-

ally be penetrated, and ten times the quantity sold, to what is now slowly made by boiling and solar evaporation. Three millions of bushels of salt can be made here yearly by an adequate supply of brine. During 1834, a large *reservoir* of the brine was constructed between Liverpool and Salina, on the high ground, for factories. *Geddes* is at the head of the lake, and on its west bank, two miles from Syracuse, and has fifty dwellings, two stores, &c. From the heights near, are fine views of the lake in front, and of cities around the lake and on the canal. Liverpool is four and a half miles north of Syracuse, has sixty dwellings, stores, taverns, &c. on the borders of the lake and Oswego Canal.

By taking a ride by the rail-road five miles up the hill to the *quarries*, where a thousand men are seen at work raising stone from the surface, and in hewing, shaping, modelling, &c. for the new locks that are to be made on the Erie Canal, and in entering the cave or chasm that is here found, and in enjoying the extensive prospect from the summit, we can promise the explorer and geologist a rich treat. The limestone is excellent for building, and is used for the masonry on the canal, and is easily sent to Oswego, Rochester, Buffalo, &c. in blocks of any size, by the canal, cranes being used for lifting on and off the boats.

The rail-road hence to Utica, sixty miles, was finished in 1838-9, and cost only \$600,000; the road was rapidly formed by Cram's pile-driving machine, and follows the invariable level and low grounds. The facility to travelers in continuing the rail-road west of Utica is very great, and from this it goes to Auburn, twenty-five miles.

The valley that contains Syracuse and the Onondaga Lake, is within nineteen feet as low as the Cayuga Lake, and is a longitudinal valley, extending north and south between the Onondaga hills, and has always been a remarkable place, and was selected by the sagacity of the aborigines, as the richest land and the most central abode for the maintenance and diffusion of their power, and here for a long time they held their secret council fires, and the six confederated Indian bodies, the Mohawks, Onondagas, Senecas, Oneidas, Cayugas, Tuscaroras, became the terror, not only of the weaker tribes of natives, but also of the white man.

The name of *Onondaga* is a pure Indian word, and means a swamp at the foot of a hill, or a place between two hills. *Sacandaga*, is swamp or marsh. These, like all their names,

are sonorous, descriptive, and strictly characteristic, and should be preserved with religious care and veneration. The French gave these tribes the name of *Iroquois*. They were never subdued until the expedition, during the revolutionary war, under the command of General Sullivan, when they were crushed, and the haughty spirit of the confederates thoroughly subdued, and the tribes scattered. A small remnant of them still linger in this valley, and are reluctant to quit the abodes of their ancestors, but they are fast fading under the influence of intemperance and idleness.

The site of the present city of Syracuse has been cleared but a very few years since the Erie Canal was laid out, but it has within ten years risen with giant strides from an inconsiderable hamlet to its present importance, at the expense of its suffering neighbors, Salina and the Onondagas; but this is only temporary, as a few years of prosperity is destined to fill this central saline valley even to overflowing with population and wealth.

Through the centre of this county farms sell at from twenty-five to forty and sixty dollars an acre, under good cultivation. Wheat gives twenty, and maize thirty bushels the acre, aided by gypsum. Pine and hemlock, with deciduous trees, densely covered the northern part of the county; in the centre and south, beech, maple, and bass wood. The stumps that remain attest the depth and exuberance of the soil. For gardens, nothing can be better than the rich vegetable matter that is here found.

The red saliferous sand-stone underlays the marsh and swamps, plain and lake, and forms a brim around the last. The shoal waters and marsh rest on this margin, while the deep waters are within it, to the depth of sixty or seventy feet. The lake has been lowered two feet, the marshes drained, and this place rendered much healthier in consequence.

Salina, one and a half miles north of Syracuse, is on a plain near the centre of the marsh, with Onondaga Creek near it, and here are seventy-seven of the salt manufactories, and the head salt spring that supplies the works here, and Liverpool, and Syracuse, the water being conveyed in subterranean logs. The brine is forced to the top of a reservoir eighty-five feet high, by pumps driven by the surplus water of the Oswego Canal, at the rate of three hundred gallons per minute for distribution. Solar evaporation produces the coarse salt, and

boiling the fine. Four hundred cords of wood per day are here used for this purpose. In the evaporating process, a low roof that is movable so as to shove off, to admit the rays of the sun, or to cover the vat during rain, admits of the deposition in a few days of the crystals that form, and are removed when matured.

There are one hundred and thirty-three salt manufacturers, three thousand four hundred and twenty-three kettles and pans of the capacity of three hundred and thirty-nine thousand seven hundred and seventy-five gallons, and over a million and a half of superficial feet of *vats* for solar evaporation.

Onondaga Hollow, and *Onondaga West Hill* are separately referred to on the stage route. (See p. 59, and index.)

The county court-house and public buildings, clerk's office, &c. are at Syracuse, it being a village incorporation, is on both sides of the Erie Canal, with every thing well arranged for business, concentration, and comfort; has an Episcopal, a Presbyterian, a Methodist, and a Baptist church, sixteen lawyers, eleven physicians, sixteen general stores, twenty-two grocery and provision stores, four drug, two hard-ware, four clothing, and five shoe stores, three turnaces and machine shops, two flouring and one lumber mills, one planing machine, three tin and copper, two leather, one morocco, two carriage, three cabinet, three marble, one soap and candle manufactories, one of steam-engines and castings, one brewery, one distillery, two tanneries, one boat-yard and dry dock, two fire engine and one hook and ladder companies. The Onondaga Salt Company, and the Syracuse Salt Company, each with a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for making coarse salt, fifteen salt blocks or nests of kettles for making salt by fire.

The *Onondaga Creek* rises in Tully, twenty-eight miles south, giving good water power, runs through the village, over which the canal is carried in a stone aqueduct of four arches, each of thirty feet span.

For Oswego Canal, see index. A small packet-boat plies to Salina every hour, fare twelve and a half cents. Many strangers here prefer to leave the Erie Canal and go to Oswego, and thence by steam-boat on Lake Ontario to Niagara, by way of variety. There are two receiving or turning basins in Syracuse and Salina, for the accommodation of the salt and other boats.

Soon after quitting Syracuse is a lock of six feet fall, and in a mile and a quarter, another of six feet rise, and in half a mile we pass through *Geddes*, as before mentioned, winding along in sight of the small Onondaga Lake, six miles in extent and one broad.

Bellisle, on the canal, is a small hamlet of fifteen dwellings, six miles from Syracuse, and *Amboy* is on the Nine Mile Creek, or outlet of the Otisco Lake, seven miles from Syracuse, and has twenty dwellings, a mill, &c. *Camillus*, also on the same creek, has fifty dwellings, four stores, three taverns, a grist, saw, carding, and cloth dressing mill. Near the village is a quarry of gypsum, the first treasure of that kind found and used in this State by Canvass White, Esq. engineer on the Erie Canal, the son of Judge White, of Whitestown. A feeder one and a half miles long is here formed to connect with the Erie Canal.

At the *Otisco*, or Nine Mile Creek, six miles from Geddes, is an aqueduct and lock of eleven feet rise, and six miles beyond is *Canton* village, fifteen miles from Syracuse, and has fifteen dwellings, three stores, and two taverns. *Canton* is the half way village between Albany and Buffalo, one hundred and eighty-three miles each way, and seventy-five from Utica. The *Otisco Lake* is four miles long and half a mile wide, and sends forth a powerful stream, the Nine Mile Creek.

Amber is near the lake, has a Methodist church and twelve dwellings. *Otisco Centre* has a Presbyterian church, fifteen dwellings, two stores.

At *Peru* are a few scattered dwellings, a store, &c. on the canal, and at *Jordan*, six miles beyond, is a lock of eleven feet fall, and an aqueduct over the Skaneateles Creek of three arches, one hundred feet long. Here are one hundred and fifty dwellings, a Methodist and Presbyterian church, three grist and three saw mills, sash and pail factory, clothing works, distillery, twelve grocery and other stores, two drug, one tannery.

Cross Lake, is a basin or reservoir, five miles long and two wide, through which the Seneca River passes, in a low swampy district, whose surface is three hundred and seventy feet above tide. It is a mile or two north of the canal.

For Skaneateles village and lake, see stage road, p. 60. At *Elbridge*, three miles south, are Indian remains on a hill, of three acres in extent, with a ditch and wall of earth. Here are sixty dwellings, three mills, three taverns, three stores.

The next six miles introduces us to *Weed's Basin* or *Weedsport*, seven miles north of Auburn, eighty-seven from Utica, and twenty-six from Syracuse; has one hundred and twenty dwellings, three forwarding houses, a Presbyterian and a Methodist church, eight stores, three taverns, one furnace, one saw mill. This is a sort of port, and landing, and embarkation for Auburn, and all that part of Cayuga County. Stages are in waiting to take passengers. (For Auburn, see stage road, p. 61.) *Centreport* has twenty dwellings and a grocery, a short distance beyond the preceding place.

Port Byron, three miles west of Weedsport, on the Erie Canal, has one hundred and forty dwellings, one Baptist Church, five stores, two taverns, two grist, four saw, and an extensive merchant's mill, one distillery, one tannery, one carding and cloth-dressing mill. Here is a lock of nine feet fall, and an aqueduct over the *Owasco Creek*, of stone, of four arches of twenty feet each. Here are dry docks, and large boat-houses, for building and repairing; and in four and a half miles we pass through a lock of nine feet fall, and in one and a half miles are at another of seven feet fall, on the level of Seneca River. At *Montezuma* or *Lakeport*, there are forty dwellings, several groceries, a collector's office for canal tolls, three taverns, one store. About one mile west of the village are the Cayuga or Montezuma marshes. The canal-boats for passengers time their arrivals and departure to meet the lake steam-boat to and from Ithaca at the head of the lake thirty-six miles south. The width of the lake is four miles, and its area eighty square miles. A ferry-boat plies across at Genoa, King's ferry. The shores of this lake are beautifully disposed to please the eye in going on its surface, or traveling on its borders. (See page 62.)

The salt works at Montezuma, before alluded to, are near by, but are not very productive or profitable. It is seven miles from this, south, to the Cayuga bridge. The rail-road from Auburn to Rochester is in course of construction, and will soon complete the line from Albany to Buffalo.

From Montezuma we cross the Cayuga outlet by a tow-path bridge, and over the marshes, and then strike in by the valley of Clyde River, in a north-west direction for five miles, when we are in *Wayne County*, in the township of Galen, and at a lock of nine feet rise. We continue on for five miles in the same direction till we arrive at *Clyde Village*, and a lock of five feet rise. Here are one hundred neat-looking

dwelling, a Presbyterian, a Methodist, and a Baptist church, many stores and forwarding houses, a cylinder window-glass factory, two grist, two saw, and one cloth-dressing mill, a tannery, and a school, and three taverns. This is eight miles east of Lyons. *Lock Berlin*, on the canal, has a lock of seven feet rise, ten dwellings, store, tavern, and smithy, and a Quaker meeting. Thence four and a half miles brings us to *Lyons*, the capital of Wayne County, and to a lock of six feet rise, and to a change from the north bank of the Clyde, by a considerable detour round the base of a hill, passing the outlet of the *Canandaigua Lake*, that here comes in from the south, and uniting with *Mud Creek*, forms the *Clyde River* for forty-three miles, to the union with the Cayuga outlet at the marshes. At the confluence of *Mud Creek* and the *Canandaigua* outlet, and on the north bank, *Lyons* is situated, and has two hundred and fifty dwellings; many of them and of the stores are of brick, spacious, and are fast increasing. It is situated on a plain bounded north and east by limestone ridges of gradual ascent, that gives a fine panoramic view of the village, the vale to the south-east, and of the confluent streams. Here is a Presbyterian, a German Lutheran, and a Methodist church, a brick court-house and jail on a public square, a bank, capital \$200,000, twenty stores, five taverns, two printing-offices, a furnace, one flouring, one grist, one saw mill, one carding and cloth dressing mill.

The canal of half a mile from the *Canandaigua* outlet on the south side of the river, gives a fall of nine feet and a large volume of water; the greater portion is yet unemployed. A bridge is made to cross at this point.

Alloway, three miles south of *Lyons*, on the *Canandaigua* outlet; has two flouring, two saw, two carding and cloth-dressing mills; two distilleries, one store, two taverns, one Baptist church, thirty dwellings. It has a good water power.

The *Erie Canal* now crosses by an aqueduct and a lock of ten feet rise, over to the south bank of *Mud Creek*, and in four and a half miles are four locks, of eight feet rise each, and in one fourth of a mile, *Miller's Basin*.

Eleven miles more brings us again alongside of the *Mud Creek* at *Palmyra*, a town, or village, of 250 dwellings, three large canal basins, a Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist church, an academy, a brewery, two tanneries, twelve general stores, several groceries and druggists, a grist and saw mill, a printing-office—thirteen miles from *Canandai-*

gua, twenty-nine from Rochester by canal, twenty-two by road.

In one and a quarter miles from Palmyra the canal again crosses, by an aqueduct, to the north side of Mud Creek, and in two and a half miles a lock of ten feet lift, and three quarters of a mile a second also of ten feet lift, in Macedon. Nine miles more bring us to *Fullam's Basin*, in *Perrinton*, Monroe County, through a marshy tract. At Fullam's, at the extremity of the ridge, is a warehouse and tavern. It is 16 miles from this to Rochester by canal, and only eleven by land, and stages are in waiting for those wishing to cut across; but no traveler should omit seeing once at least the *great embankment over Irondequoit Creek*, that in four miles is now passed volens volens in two miles beyond Hartwell's Basin.

This stupendous embankment of earth is 72 feet above the creek, and is two miles long, thus carrying the wondering and astonished passenger in mid air, far above the meadows below, that may be viewed as a map. The construction of this work was one of great expense to the State, and the cause of much anxiety to the engineers, as to the results.

A lock of eight feet rise is passed, and then in two miles we arrive at *Pultsford*, a town of 100 dwellings, six miles southeast from Rochester; has a Presbyterian, a Baptist, and a Methodist church, a saw mill on the canal lock, four stores, three warehouses, one tannery. Oak openings begin to appear in this and in Perrinton, as a new feature.

Blossomville has a post office, a plaster mill, a Presbyterian church, a store and tavern, and fifteen houses.

In six and a half miles we meet, at a chain of five locks in Brighton, a rise of thirty-seven feet and a half, and are at the beginning of the second, or *Genesee Long Level*, of sixty-five miles, that extends westward to Lockport, in Niagara County. In three miles we cross the feeder of two miles long, that comes from the rapids, and are in the city of,

Rochester,

the capital of Monroe County. It is a port of entry for the Lake Ontario, Genesee district, in north latitude 43°—has 2,500 dwellings, many of three and four stories high, of brick,

and a population of about 17,000, embracing all the mechanic arts and professions. The residences of many of the inhabitants indicate wealth, taste, and comfort, having court yards, shrubberies and gardens attached.

The settlement dates from 1812; the incorporation from 1834. There are five wards, a court-house and jail of stone, six large hotels, fourteen churches (two of correct and attractive architecture) of all sects, an arcade of six stories, containing the post office, atheneum, a hotel, and various other offices. There is a savings bank, and three banks with an aggregate capital of \$950,000, seven newspapers, (two daily,) three bookstores and binderies, and a host of merchants, traders, forwarding and commission houses, grocers, and mechanics of all kinds. The streets are wide, and paved, and drained. Three bridges connect the east and west parts of the city, besides the great *aqueduct*, *eight hundred feet* long, on eleven arches.

The manufacture of flour is here the business of primary importance, from the well known and unequalled facilities yielded by the falls in the Genesee River, *two hundred and seventy-one feet*, from this to the lake, that, at the English valuation of water power, would be \$9,718,272. This power is but partially employed at present; there are 24 flouring mills, with about 100 run of stones, that can make 60 (to 100) barrels each per day, equal to 5,280 a day, or 1,746,000 per year. 400,000 have been produced, amount \$2,700,000.

There are 11 large saw mills, nine large machine shops, that use water power for turning, stone cutting, grinding dye woods and bark, grain for distilleries, &c. making edge tools and carpets; of these marts of labor and industry, the Globe is the most extensive and curious, a cotton and three woollen factories. The value of capital invested in mills and machinery is about \$750,000, and that required for conducting at \$2,000,000, and the returns at three millions and a half; amount of merchandise sold annually, over two millions. Exports by the lake, near a million.

The situation on the canal and river, and with the various rail-roads branching like arteries to various directions, and pulsating with the most active commerce, and alive with passengers, and the canals with boats and merchandise, impresses one with a vivid belief in the general prosperity.

The Tonawanta rail-road of 32 miles to Batavia, is de-

Genesee Falls.

scribed at p. 66. A short rail-road also extends to Port Genesee, seven miles, and to Charlotte; and another one from *Scottsville*, a village of 120 houses, four churches, five mills, 15 miles south on the river, up the valley of Allen's Creek, through Wheatland, 10 miles, and then to *Caledonia*, and will be eventually to Le Roy, and west to Batavia, for the benefit of the farmers and millers on the route, and to connect with the canal from *Rochester* to Olean, on the *Alleghany* River. This canal pursues the valley of the Genesee on the west bank, keeping along the edge of the low grounds near the base of the hills, to be above inundation, but avoiding the too great sinuosities, and crossing the Genesee by an aqueduct at Mount Morris to the east side, from whence it goes south to Olean, on the *Alleghany*, (a branch leading off to the south-east, up the valley of the Canasoraga Creek to Dansville, and to Bath and Painted Post, to unite with the Chemung Canal at Newtown.) The Genesee is navigable for small boats 53 miles to Mount Morris, and a steam-boat plies to Avon, 20 miles.

The lake steam-boats come up to Carthage, two miles north of the Erie Canal, near the falls. Here are 60 dwellings, and an inclined plane from the landing-place to the warehouse 160 feet above, with machinery, the steps are 237; the rail-road from the city ends here. The bridge of one arch of 352 feet cord, and versed sine 54 feet, summit 196 feet above the water, length 718, width 30 feet, was *put up* in 1819, and *fell down* in 1820, with a crash, after a heavy loaded wagon and four horses, and a gig had just crossed. It cost \$27,000.

There are two grand falls of the Genesee: the first, about a quarter of a mile below the aqueduct, is 96 feet, in three distinct sheets; and below this the river is broad and deep, with occasional rapids for a mile and a half to the second fall of 20 feet, thence it extends for 400 feet over a rough bed, and gathers its waters for the last and final leap of 105 feet perpendicular; thence are rapids to the head of sloop navigation; the ravine throughout, from the upper to the lower fall, being a deep, narrow, rocky gulf, of over a hundred feet deep; the country on both sides being even to the lake shore, and in going from east to west, no indication is given of an approach to such a deep indentation in the surface of the earth until we are close upon its brink, and in this particular it conforms to the features of the Niagara below the falls to Lewiston and Queenston.

Steam-boats that ply from Niagara along the south shore

of the lake to Oswego, and Sackett's Harbor, and Ogdensburgh, also look into this river, and land and receive passengers. The ridge road from this to Lewiston is 80 miles, parallel with the lake shore, and either by this or some other mode, (of steam-boat to Niagara River, or of canal to Lockport, or any way that will bring the traveler in such a direction to this frontier, as that he may catch the first view of the cataract in going up, either from Lewiston or Queenston,) the traveler should approach Niagara till the spectacle suddenly bursts upon him in all its panoramic glory, when beheld in front, or coming from the north. In our opinion this is preferable to making the approach from the rear, or south, and then coming round to the front.

There are six basins or stopping places at short distances between Rochester and Brockport, viz. King's, six and a half miles; Webber's, two and a half beyond; Kilborn's, one and a half; Spencer's, one and a half, within a mile or two of *Parma* on the ridge road; then Webster's, one; Bates', two, at the embankment over Salmon Creek; Cooley's, two and a half; *Brockway* or port, two and a half. This is a town of 300 to 400 houses, many of them of three and four stories high, of brick or freestone, seven or eight commission warehouses, taverns, stores, in the customary abundance and variety; one Presbyterian, one Baptist, and one Methodist church, of stone and brick, with steeples, also an Episcopal congregation, five schools, a large college building of five stories high, a grist mill, two tanneries, and machine factory. This is a large wheat purchasing mart.

At the end of the next five miles occurs the HOLLEY embankment of 76 feet high above the creek, before entering the village that contains 70 dwellings, many of brick, on six streets, a Baptist and a Presbyterian church, three mills, a furnace, a woollen factory for making flannels and cloths, besides stores and taverns.

Sandy Creek, at the junction of the two main branches, has four mills, four stores, three taverns, one tannery, and 25 dwellings. North Murray has a Baptist church, two stores, a tavern, and 10 dwellings. Scio, on the canal, six miles east from Albion, has a Methodist church, a mill, store, a tavern, and 20 dwellings. Smith's Basin is six and a half miles west of Holley, and is the half way basin. Gaines' Basin, one and a half miles north of Albion, has 12 dwellings, a warehouse, and three stores. Gaines' Village has 50 dwellings, three

miles north-west of Albion, two churches, two taverns, four dry goods, one tannery, one ashery.

Fair Haven, two and a half miles north of Albion, has 15 dwellings, a store, tavern, and Universalist church.

Otter Creek embankment is 55 feet high, and in $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles is another long embankment at Clark's Brook of 15 feet high, and in three miles is the Fish Creek embankment, and an arched road-way under the canal. The *village* of OAK ORCHARD is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles off to the right, on the ridge road, and has 10 dwellings, two taverns, a store, grist, and two saw mills.

The *aqueduct* over Oak Orchard Creek has an arch of 60 feet span, and here comes in a feeder of half a mile long. The Oak Orchard Creek has a fall near the canal of 30 feet near Medina. The Oak Orchard rises on the table land, south 35 miles, and runs north towards Lake Ontario, and joins it at Fish Bay. It flows through the great Tonawanta swamp, that is 25 miles long east to west, and two to seven in breadth, an area of 50,000 acres, and occupies the submerged land south of the highest ridge 400 feet above Ontario. In rainy seasons this swamp is flooded deep, and drains but slow. An open aqueduct or feeder of four and a half miles is cut through marsh, and part of the way through solid rock, by which the *upper waters* of the Tonawanta, that would otherwise be absorbed in the Niagara, are now diverted in part to the north, and led to the Oak Orchard Creek, that through the marsh was sluggish, and before this tapping of the Tonawanta, was in the summer of no importance; its mass has now been greatly increased, and is made use of for hydraulic purposes, as after breaking through the barrier on the north it is rapid, and has a smooth, rocky bed, and in leaping over the ridges, forms some beautiful cascades.

Albion, the capital of Orleans County, has grown up since 1823, is on the canal near the centre of the county, 35 miles from Rochester, 50 from Buffalo, 28 from Lockport, 18 from Batavia, and 10 south of Lake Ontario. It has 220 dwellings of brick and wood; some are large and neat. The public square is decorated by a court house of brick with the county offices; a Presbyterian and a Methodist church, and a school for females. It has a bank, capital \$200,000, 13 dry goods, one book, one hardware, two drug, and many other stores, also tanners, ashery, grist, saw, and cloth and carding mill, a furnace, five taverns, various mechanics, nine lawyers, five physicians, two newspapers.

Medina is 10 miles west of Albion, and has 250 dwellings, a Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal church, 10 dry goods, a brewery, a tanner, a carding and cloth dressing, a shingle factory, three taverns, a high school, and seminary for ladies, a newspaper, &c. This a business-like and growing village. *Eagle Harbor*, three miles west of Albion, has 15 dwellings, a Methodist church, three stores, and a warehouse.

Barre Centre, three miles, and South Barre, six miles south of Albion, have 25 dwellings each. *Knowlesville*, on the canal, six miles west of Albion, has a Baptist and Presbyterian church, 30 dwellings, four dry goods, one drug store, a tanner, an ashery, two taverns. *Shelby's Basin*, on the canal, 13 miles west of Albion, has a Universalist church, a tavern, tannery, two stores, 12 dwellings.

Servos' Basin is 46 miles from Rochester, and in one quarter of a mile is the embankment over the middle branch of Oak Orchard Creek.

Middleport, near the east line of Niagara County, 12 miles from Lockport, has 40 dwellings, three warehouses, four stores, two taverns, one Methodist church, and an embankment over the west branch of Oak Orchard Creek. *Gasport*, on the canal six miles east of Lockport, has an inflammable spring which rises in the canal basin; it has a few dwellings, tavern, store, and a warehouse. One and a half miles west of Middleport is the embankment over Johnson's Creek 25 feet high, and in three miles onward is the embankment over Eighteen Mile Creek, 20 feet, and in one mile is a basin.

Eight miles from a basin, Royalton, brings us along the foot of the mountain ridge to Lockport, the termination of the long western level of 65 miles from this to Perrinton beyond the Genesee. The natural ravine that here forms an oblong or horse-shoe amphitheatrical basin of six acres, embosoming and sheltering the expansion, is a most remarkable *finale* to this end of the long level; and if this ravine had been made by the aid and ingenious labors of man, by blasting and hard knocks, at an expense of millions, that in such an event it must have cost, it could not even then have received a better shape and adaptation to its purpose as the magnificent terminus to the long level, and the still more stupendous portal as cut through the rock of 60 or 90 feet, that introduces us to the rocky barrier that admits us to the upper lakes.

The two long levels on the canal, and the Lockport basin, the Wat Hoix gap on the Mohawk, and perhaps other places

and remarkable features, no doubt conduced to aid the ingenuity of man in completing this Herculean undertaking of tracing and excavating for 362 miles, a channel to unite the waters of the lakes and the ocean by the deep majestic link of the Hudson and Mohawk.

Lockport,

the capital of Niagara County, is founded upon the summit and the base of the terrace or rocky ridge, that stretches from Lewiston heights on the Niagara, eastward towards the Oneida Lake. In 1821 its site was a farm, and was then surveyed and divided into city lots, and the incorporated limits of one and three quarters by one and a half miles, cover an area of 1,630 acres, and is composed of an upper and lower town or terrace. There are 500 houses, and 6,000 inhabitants of all grades, and the usual variety of professions, trades, and employments. A rail-road of 20 miles here extends to Niagara Falls.

Its buildings, both public and private, are of the excellent stone that is here quarried; such is the court house and jail, and some of the nine churches or meeting-houses. There is an academy, and one seminary for males, and one for females, and many select and common schools, several hotels in good repute, a bank, capital \$100,000, a lyceum for literary and scientific purposes, a library, two bookstores, and numerous dry goods and groceries.

The flouring business here also takes precedence, there being four large mills with 24 run of stones that make annually 47,000 barrels of flour, worth \$235,000. The great abundance of water derived from Lake Erie, that is brought through the deep cut to the brow of the ridge, and all around the basin, is used in part for the following mills and factories, viz. one for sawing stone, one cotton and one woollen factory, two double gang saw mills, five single saws, one machine shop, two furnaces for forging and working iron, one set of machinery for making barrels, one window sash factory, one carding and cloth dressing mill. There are four wagon makers, and one coach do., six turning lathes, two chair factories, ten smiths, two gun smiths, two tin, copper, and sheet-iron workers, three newspapers. The waste water of the above mills, and of the five combined or double

locks of the sixty feet mountain ridge, after it has fulfilled its hydraulic operations in its descent to the basin, is there retained by a dam across the ravine, and forms the head or fountain to fill the long or sixty-five mile level, and as such is chiefly relied on, though the Oak Orchard, the Genesee, and other feeders are useful in their place.

The upper village is about 80 feet above the level of the basin and long level of the canal, and this leads to many picturesque and pleasing sites, in disposition of houses, water, &c.

In moving up in a boat to the head of the basin to enter the chain of double locks that are arranged in the most massive style, side by side, in huge chambers, with stone steps in the centre, guarded by iron railings on both sides for safety and convenience, the gates of the lock are closed after the boat is in the chamber, and the roaring and sudden influx of the water from the lock above, in three or four minutes raises the boat to the level of the next lock above, and this is repeated five times, the adjoining side lock being, perhaps, employed in letting a boat pass down the lock to the basin and canal.

The boat having in this manner risen up 60 feet in five lifts, the passenger is astonished to contemplate before him a vista of several miles, bounded on either hand by walls of the solid limestone rock, 25 to 30 feet high, and very appropriately called the *Deep Rock Cutting at Lockport*, and this continues for several miles south, but gradually diminishes in height as the rock dips under the soil, when we emerge at *Pendleton*, through a guard lock into the dark waters of the Tonawanta Creek, that by means of a dam at its mouth of four and a half feet, that backs the water and raises it to a level with Lake Erie, is, for 12 miles from this, as still and sluggish as a canal, and is 120 feet wide and 16 feet deep, with a tow-path on its south bank, and in this 12 miles is only a descent of one foot. This creek is the boundary of Niagara and Erie Counties, and rises in the south part of Genesee, and has a course of north-north-west and west for more than 80 miles to the Niagara River, opposite Grand Island and the new village of *Tonnawanta*, with its mills and 20 houses, &c. From the dam here are outlet locks from the Erie Canal to the Niagara River. The East Boston Company, proprietors of Grand Island, are interested in this place, and also own *White Haven*, on Grand Island, where they have 50 families and 200 workmen, a steam grist mill and saw mill 150

feet square, with room for 15 gangs of saws, a building used for school and church, a wharf, and a dock for floating timber.

Ellicott's Creek comes into the Tonawanta just above the dam.

Turning round to the south and leaving the Tonawanta behind, we advance along the banks of the clear blue Niagara (here 100 rods in width over to Grand Island) on the one hand, and the higher banks of the Erie Canal on the east, passing the Long Meadows at Two Mile Creek, and in six miles are at the lower end of Black Rock Harbor, and the sloop lock and mills, Skajocketa Creek, and Squaw Island, and the mole, then one mile to Black Rock, one to the upper end of the mole at Bird Island, and one and a half to Buffalo city, the queen of the lakes.

Black Rock has 350 dwellings, is three miles from Buffalo, and is opposite to the village of Waterloo and Fort Erie, (in ruins) The *River Niagara*, or more correctly perhaps, the St. Lawrence, is here near one mile wide and 25 feet deep, and has a current of six miles an hour, is of a sea green color, and has a ferry to the Canadian shore. The mole, a crib 18 feet wide, filled with stone, that extends from Bird Island north, and forms the harbor, (88 to 220 yards broad,) is 4,565 yards long, nearly parallel to the east shore, thus forming a narrow but secure refuge inside of the break-water, of an area of 136 acres, and raising the water at the lower part of the dam four feet, that could be used for 100 mills, that no drought or season could ever affect. There are now one flouring mill, one grist of two run, two saw, a stove, and carding and fulling mill, one iron foundery and steam engine factory, a distillery, and grinding mill, and at Squaw Island, a saw and shingle mill, and a glass factory.

A rail road of three miles on the low bank at the harbor's side leads to Buffalo, and the rail road from Buffalo to the Falls of Niagara is on the upper bank. The town plat embraces 1,212 acres. In the mania for speculating in 1836, an association purchased the property of P. B. Porter, of 400 acres of land, house, factories, water power, &c. for \$300,000. The State of New-York formerly owned a mile in width along the frontier, from Lake Erie to Ontario, that was not sold to the Holland Company.

The floor of the lake at the water's edge on the Canadian shore, near Fort Erie, where the waves and surf act with full effect, and where the indraught towards the river is very

strong, is of limestone, extending by a gradual slope into the lake towards Buffalo. The desolating effects of war are yet visible on the walls of this fortification; some of the iron pills are still to be seen, deeply fixed in the thick limestone walls, that are blackened with smoke. From this position is a fine view of the lake, and of Buffalo, Black Rock, and of the American shore; and in proceeding from Black Rock by the upper town towards Buffalo, is a still more extensive view of the grandeur of the lake, and of its iron-bound shores on the south, to the utmost extent of vision.

The Erie Canal continues on from the Black Rock harbor 114 chains to Little Buffalo Creek in the heart of the town, with lateral branches through the lower town.

A *mole and pier* of wood and stone extends 1,500 feet into the lake from the south shore of the creek, and at the extremity of the pier is a light house 46 feet high, 20 in diameter at base, of yellow sandstone. Vessels of eight feet draught can enter this harbor, a mile in extent, and remain secure. A ship canal 80 feet wide and 13 deep, near the mouth of the creek, extends for 700 yards.

The approach to this city of the lake is, either by land or water, quite imposing, as its domes, turrets, steeples, and the successive streets and lake craft, are developed to our view; and when it is considered that all we behold here has arisen from the industry and the labor of man within ten or twenty years, it is gratifying to any philanthropist as being the result of our free institutions.

A marine hospital and rail-way are erected.

Buffalo and Black Rock have a supply of water by a canal coming from the creek four miles above the city to its eastern limits, that has attracted to its borders a considerable population engaged in manufactures. Steam-boats for Detroit and the intermediate ports, and for Chippewa and the Falls, go daily. Much inconvenience to the trade on the canal, and to the commerce of Buffalo, is occasioned by the ice, that in April, or later, blocks up the harbor for several weeks, and this can, perhaps, only be obviated in part, by continuing the canal along the lake shore to Dunkirk or Portland, near the western border of the State. The great rail-road from Dunkirk through the southern range of counties to the city of New-York, about 400 miles long, that is now in progress, is another cogent reason why this canal should be continued to the same terminating point.

For description of Buffalo see p. 69 and 70.

*Lucas-Eric
Koppitz*

334 f.†

Lovel or Lake

Falls
140 ft.

EuphratesSection of country between Lakes Erie & Ontario
Limestone

Shale
very
good

W. J. Phelps

Chastity

Lewiston

VIEW of the COUNTRY
round the
FALLS of NIAGARA

Print Date: 1.1.1985

ON TARTO

F. Niagara
Thom's Town
Ferry

To Rochester

K

5

Head to Rochester
80 Miles

201

32.4 F.

Level of Lake

VIEW of the COUNTRY round the FALLS of NIAGARA

Section of Country between Lakes Erie & Ontario

Wright's

Forriston

Height
140 Ft
Depth

Ontario



A LIST OF
THE PRINCIPAL PLACES ON THE CANAL,
AND THEIR
DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER,
As adopted by the Canal Board.



Erie and Junction Canal.

NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM.				
	Place to place.	Albany.	Utica.	Rochester.	Buffalo.
Albany, ...	0	0	110	269	364
Port Schuyler, ...	5	5	105	264	359
Washington, (Gibbonsville,)	1	6	104	263	358
West Troy, ...	1	7	103	262	357
Junction, ...	2	9	101	260	355
Cohoes, ...	1	10	100	259	354
Lower Aqueduct, ...	3	13	97	256	351
Willow Spring, ...	6	19	91	250	345
Upper Aqueduct, ...	7	26	84	243	338
Schenectady, ...	4	30	80	239	334
Rotterdam, ...	9	39	71	230	325
Phillip's Locks, ...	5	44	66	225	320
Amsterdam, ...	3	47	63	222	317
Schoharie Creek, ...	5	52	58	217	312
Smithtown, (Auriesville,)	2	54	56	215	310
Caughnawaga, (Fultonville,)	3	57	53	212	307
Big Nose, ...	7	64	46	205	300
Spraker's Basin, ...	2	66	44	203	298
Canajoharie, ...	3	69	41	200	295
Fort Plain, ...	3	72	38	197	292
Diefendorf's Landing, ...	3	75	35	194	289
Mindeu Dam, (St. Johnsville,)	2	77	33	192	287
East Canada Creek, ...	4	81	29	188	283
Indian Castle, (Nowandaga Creek,)	2	83	27	186	281
Fink's Ferry, ...	3	86	24	183	278
Little Falls, ...	2	88	22	181	276
Rankin's Lock, (No. 7,)	3	91	19	178	273
Herkimer Lower Bridge, ...	4	95	15	174	269
Herkimer Upper Bridge, ...	1	96	14	173	268
Fulmer's Creek, ...	1	97	13	172	267
Morgan's Landing, ...	1	98	12	171	277

NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM				
	Place to place.	Albany.	Utica.	Rochester.	Buffalo.
Steel's Creek, ...	1	99	11	170	265
Frankfort, ...	2	101	9	168	263
Ferguson's, ...	6	107	3	162	257
Utica, ...	3	110	0	159	254
York Mills, (Wetmore's,)	3	113	3	156	251
Whitesboro', ...	1	114	4	155	250
Oriskany, ...	3	117	7	152	247
Rome, ...	8	125	15	144	239
Wood Creek Aqueduct, (Fort Bull,)	2	127	17	142	237
Hawley's Basin, ...	2	129	19	140	235
Stoney Creek, ...	1	130	20	139	234
New London, ...	2	132	22	137	232
Higgins', ...	4	136	26	133	228
Loomis', ...	2	138	28	131	226
Oneida Creek, (Durhamville,)	3	141	31	128	222
Canastota, ...	5	146	36	123	218
New Boston, (Canasarağa,)	4	150	40	119	214
Chittenango, ...	3	153	43	116	211
Pool's Brook, ...	3	156	46	113	208
Kirkville, ...	2	158	48	111	206
Little Lake, ...	2	160	50	109	204
Manlius, (Reels,)	2	162	52	107	202
Limestone Feeder, ...	1	163	53	106	201
Orville Feeder, ...	2	165	55	104	199
Lodi, ...	5	170	60	99	194
Syracuse, ...	1	171	61	98	193
Geddes, ...	2	173	63	96	191
Belisle, ...	4	177	67	92	187
Nine Mile Creek, ...	1	178	68	91	186
Camillus, ...	1	179	69	90	185
Canton, ...	5	184	74	85	180
Peru, ...	2	186	76	83	178
Jordan, ...	4	190	80	79	174
Cold Spring, ...	1	191	81	78	173
Weedsport, ...	5	196	86	73	168
Centreport, ...	1	197	87	72	167
Port Byron, ...	2	199	89	70	165
Montezuma, (Lakeport,)	6	205	95	64	159
Lockpit, ...	6	211	101	58	153
Clyde, ...	5	216	106	53	148
Lock Berlin, ...	5	221	111	48	143
Lyons, ...	4	225	115	44	139
Lockville, ...	6	231	121	38	133
Newark, ...	1	232	122	37	132
Port Gibson, ...	3	235	125	34	129

NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM				
	Place to place.	Albany.	Utica.	Rochester.	Buffalo.
Palmyra, ...	5	240	130	29	124
Macedonville, ...	4	244	134	25	120
Wayneport, (Barrager's Basin,)	3	247	137	22	117
Perrinton, (Lindel's Bridge,)	2	249	139	20	115
Perrinton Centre, (Col. Peter's,)	2	251	141	18	113
Fairport, ...	1	252	142	17	112
Fullam's Basin, ...	1	253	143	16	111
Bushnell's Basin, ...	3	256	146	13	108
Pittsford, ...	3	259	149	10	105
Billinghast's Basin, ...	4	263	153	6	101
Lock No. 3, ...	2	265	155	4	99
Rochester, ...	4	269	159	0	95
Brockway's, ...	10	279	169	10	85
Spencer's Basin, ...	2	281	171	12	83
Adams' Basin, ...	3	284	174	15	80
Cooley's Basin, ...	3	287	177	18	77
Brockport, ...	2	289	179	20	75
Holley, ...	5	294	184	25	70
Scio, ...	4	298	188	29	66
Albion, ...	6	304	194	35	60
Gaines' Basin, ...	2	306	196	37	58
Eagle Harbor, ...	1	307	197	38	57
Long Bridge, ...	2	309	199	40	55
Knowlesville, ...	2	311	201	42	53
Road Culvert, ...	1	312	202	43	52
Medina, ...	3	315	205	46	49
Shelba Basin, ...	3	318	208	49	46
Middleport, ...	3	321	211	52	43
Reynold's Basin, ...	3	324	214	55	40
Gasport, ...	2	326	216	57	38
Lockport, ...	7	333	223	64	31
Pendleton, ...	7	340	230	71	24
Welch's, ...	2	342	232	73	23
H. Brockway's, ...	4	346	236	77	18
Tonnawanta, ...	6	352	242	83	12
Lower Black Rock, ...	8	360	250	91	4
Black Rock, ...	1	361	251	92	3
Buffalo, ...	3	364	254	95	0

CHAMPLAIN CANAL.

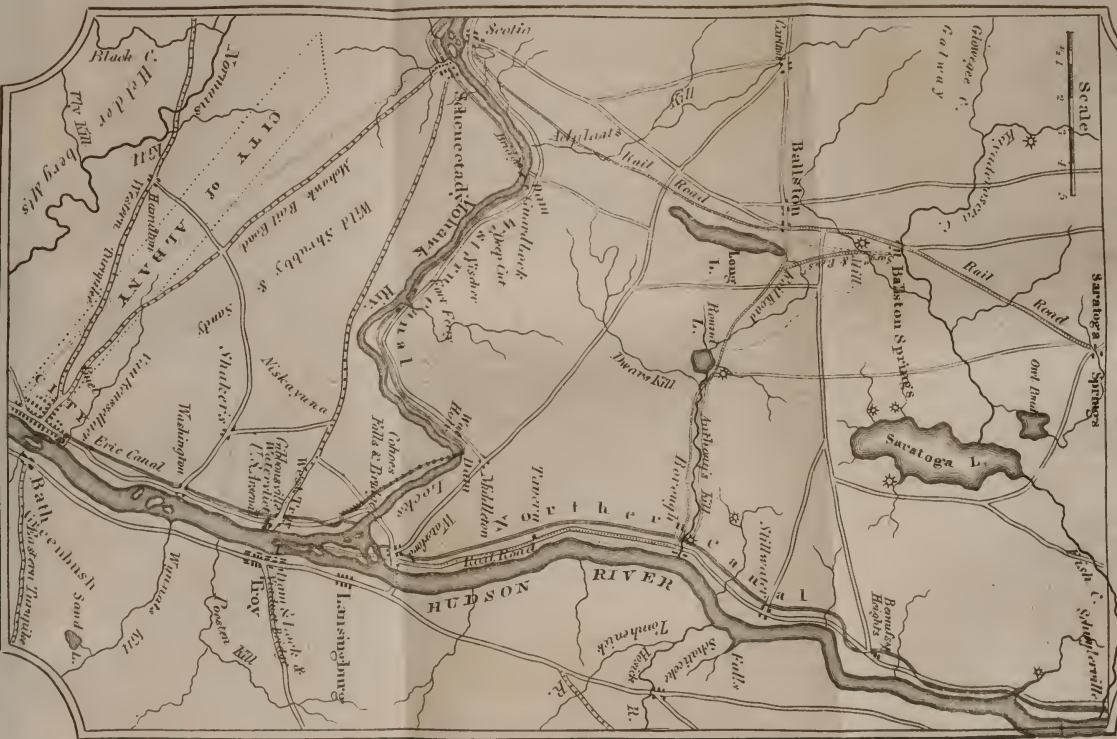
NAMES OF PLACES.	DISTANCE FROM		
	Place to place.	Albany.	Whitehall.
Albany, ...	0	0	73
West Troy, ...	7	7	66
Junction, ...	2	9	64
Waterford, ...	3	12	61
Mechanicville, ...	8	20	53
Stillwater Village, ...	4	24	49
Bleecker's Basin, ...	2	26	47
Wilber's Basin, ...	2	28	45
Van Duzen's Landing, ...	5	33	40
Schuylerville, ...	3	36	37
Saratoga Bridge, ...	2	38	35
Fort Miller, ...	3	41	32
Moses Kill, ...	3	44	29
Fort Edward, ...	5	49	24
Glenn's Falls Feeder, ...	2	51	22
Baker's Basin, ...	1	52	21
Smith's Basin, ...	5	57	16
Fort Ann, ...	4	61	12
Comstock's Landing, ...	4	65	8
Whitehall, ...	8	73	0
Whole distance Erie Canal, ...	363 miles.		
do. do. Champlain do.	64 do.		

Route and expenses from New-York to St. Louis.

New-York to Albany, ...	50 cents to	\$2 00
Albany to Buffalo, by Erie Canal, in packet boat, ...	do.	15 00
“ “ “ “ in line boat, ...	do.	9 00
Buffalo to Erie, by steam, ...	do.	3 00
Buffalo to Ashtabula by steam, ...	do.	4 50
Buffalo, to Cleveland, Ohio, by do.	do.	6 50
Erie to Beaver, on the Ohio, by stage, including food, ...	do.	5 50
Beaver to Cincinnati, by steam, ...	do.	10 00
Cincinnati to Louisville, by steam, ...	do.	3 00
Louisville to Shawneetown, by steam, ...	do.	6 00
Louisville to St. Louis, by steam, ...	do.	12 00

BALSTON & SARATOGA SPRINGS, CITY OF ALBANY, and adjacent Country.

Burgoyne's Campaign
Oct. 1777



**Steam-boat route to St. Louis, via Lake Erie, &c.
above 1200 miles.**

From Buffalo to Dunkirk,	45 miles.
Portland,	60
Erie,	90
Salem,	120
Ashtabula,	135
Grand River,	165
Cleveland,	195
Huron,	245
Sandusky,	260
Detroit,	330
Mackina,	600
Green Bay,	750
Chicago,	900

Stage coaches go from Chicago to St. Louis, 320 miles.

do. to Galen, Wisconsin, is 160 miles, time 2

days and nights, stage fare \$12 to \$15.

**Route from Albany, Troy, Ballston, and
Saratoga, to Lake George, Ticonderoga,
and Whitehall.**

The capital macadamized road of six miles, that leads by the side of the Erie Canal and the Hudson River to Gibbonsville, and past the United States arsenal to West Troy, six miles, is one of the best roads in the State, and cost \$90,000. The *Arsenal* is comprised within a very extensive plot of ground, bisected by the Erie Canal, and adjoining the main road, and consists of several fire-proof edifices, and large stores of small arms, and the various munitions of war, ordnance shops, &c.; this is one of the most important national depôts, and is worth a moment's time of the traveler to behold, as the armory always contains an immense stock of small arms, arranged in glittering and imposing manner, and the relics of the revolutionary parks of artillery, and of some presented by the King of France, Louis 14th.

West Troy has grown up rapidly, and is a suburb of Troy, and with it identified in interest and prosperity, containing 500 dwellings and 3,300 inhabitants, employed principally in manufactures, with a bank of a capital of \$150,000. There is an India rubber manufactory, and several operations

carried on that derive water power from the surplus waters of the Erie and Junction Canals, that by a side cut have an outlet here into the Hudson, and across the river to Troy, and the intercourse by means of ferries and the rail-road bridge is constantly kept up.

One of the sprouts of the Mohawk passes under the bridge that leads from West Troy to Tibbitt's Island. The lower ferry near the arsenal leads across the Hudson, here one eighth of a mile wide, to Washington-street and the foot of Mount Ida on the east bank, 300 feet high, from which is one of the finest views and panoramic scenes on the Hudson. The mansion and grounds of John Hart and ——— Wilson occupy the summit, and George Tibbitts the next one north.

The middle ferry, passing beyond Liberty and Division-streets, lands at Ferry-street, and penetrates the central part of the city to the east. The next streets in a parallel direction to the last, are in succession, Congress, State, Albany, Elbow, Grand; the two latter extending east past the Rensselaer Institute, established by the late patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq. for gratuitous education, by A. Eaton.

The next in order are Federal-street, and the rail-road bridge, Jacob, Hutton, and Hoosack-streets; from the latter, the capital macadamized road leads out north-east to Bennington in Vermont, 28 miles, and the company that constructed it have the grant of laying rails on the same, connected with the rail-road to Brattleboro', on the Connecticut River; thence is a road to Lowell, on the Merrimack, making a new route to Boston.

The next streets north of Hoosick are Vanderheyden, Jay, Rensselaer, and North, (east of which is Mount Olympus, 120 feet high,) then Middlebury, Canal, and Dow-streets, and the water-works on the north, and the *State dam* of nine feet high, extending across the Hudson, and backing the water to Lansingburg and Waterford, with locks of a size to pass sloops.

River-street is the principal thoroughfare next to the Hudson, and contains the principal warehouses, stores, and shops, and some HOTELS; the *Mechanic*, the *Troy*, and *Mansion* houses; the two latter on Albany and River-streets, the *Franklin*, corner of Elbow-street, and *Washington Hall*, corner of Grand and Division-streets, and *Stearn's*, near King-street, and the *Northern Hotel* between Jacob, and Hutton, and River, and Second-streets, the *American*, and the *National*.

Next to River-street on the east, are streets named from First to Seventh streets, and on First street is the bank of Troy, the Presbyterian and Scotch Presbyterian churches, and on the Second street is the celebrated *Seminary for females*, so long and ably managed by Mrs. Willard, (lately retired, and succeeded by her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Willard, as joint principals, aided by 17 assistant teachers.) The terms are \$240 per annum. The *Episcopal and Presbyterian churches* are creditable and ornamental edifices, as is the *court house* of marble, with pillars in the Grecian style.

Troy has a population of 20,000, four banks, total capital \$1,318,000, and three insurance companies \$800,000, 12 churches, (four Presbyterian, two Episcopal, one Baptist, one Methodist, one Roman Catholic, one Bethel, one Friends, one Universalist,) a market and a jail, a lyceum of natural history and cabinet of minerals, an asylum for orphans, and a house of industry, several daily and weekly papers, and many schools. The houses are of brick, there having been several large fires that have most used up the wooden ones, and the streets are paved, and ornamented with trees, and jets of water from the reservoir, that has a head of 75 feet, and supplies the city by iron pipes subterranean.

The warehouses fronting the Hudson are lofty, and the enterprise, activity, zeal, and public spirit manifested by the citizens of Troy, in competing with Albany for the steam-boat business, and the canal and river trade, and in rail-roads to the Springs, and roads to the interior, evince the stamina of wealth and perseverance.

As a residence either temporary or permanent, for business, or pleasure, or health, it has much to recommend it. It is incorporated, and has six wards, a mayor, and 12 aldermen.

The first house built in the village of Vanderheyden, as it was called in 1707, yet remains, corner of River and Division-streets. In 1787 there were but four dwellings, and the ground was covered with oaks and pines. The Poesten and Wynant's Kill, coming from the east, have a descent of 400 feet in four miles, of which 270 are in the city bounds, and give great power, that is used for a variety of purposes, by four flouring mills (capable of making 100,000 barrels of flour yearly,) a wool and cotton factory, nail and spike factory, and rolling and slitting, one paper mill.

Cascadilla, at the iron works one mile off, has 60 dwellings.

There are also air furnaces, steam engine and machine factory, breweries, tanneries, four large tallow chandlers, famous for making best tallow candles, two carriage factories, whose stages are seen all over the United States, bell and brass founderies, three plaster mills, two burr mill stone factories, a shovel and spade factory, a rope walk, bleaching and coloring works. There are 100 vessels owned in this place, and several of the largest steam boats on the Hudson, that carry yearly 232,000 tons of freight, and 10 tow boats that carry 66,000 tons, 160 canal boats, of 30 to 40 tons each, belonging to the Troy line to bring produce to this city direct, 67 cotton and 40 woollen factories are within the range and influence of the Troy market to the east and north, and draw their supplies hence, and the water power that is still unemployed in this vicinity, that may be drawn from the Hudson and Mohawk, &c. is immense.

A pleasant walk may be taken along the banks of the Poes-ten, and other kills, tracing them up to their summits, through narrow gorges or ravines, and cragged rocks, amid trees, and shrubs, and murmuring falls and cascades, wild, romantic, and picturesque.

The great slide or land slip that took place from the disruption of a hill to the east of, and immediately in the rear of Troy, in 1837, by which several lives were lost, is well worth viewing as a matter of curiosity, and though the ascent, by toiling up Congress street, past Mr. Tibbitt's, and thence to the right or south to Mount Ida, may be arduous, yet the view that will unfold itself to the eye is splendid, and cannot but be impressive.

The alluvial flats at the foot of the hill are from a quarter to half a mile wide, and the arrangement of the city plat is into blocks of 400 by 280 feet, intersected by alleys. Fifteen of the streets range north and south, and 19 east and west, and are 60 feet wide, and graveled or paved, and lighted.

Omnibusses and stages are continually passing between Albany and Troy, for a fare of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents each passenger.

Lansingburg is three miles north of Troy, has 3,000 inhabitants, six churches, and 500 dwellings, principally on one street, and a bank. It is laid out in squares 400 by 260 feet, with alleys and wide streets, is opposite the mouth of the Mohawk, and the roar of the Cohoes Falls can be heard at night, and from the hills in the rear it can be seen at a distance of five miles west, beyond Van Shaick's Island, where was the camp

of the Americans before the capture of Burgoyne at Saratoga, in 1777, and here the army under Gen. Schuyler had entrenched, and were to have made a last and desperate stand, if the enemy had thus far advanced.

Famous good ale is here made by several establishments on a large scale, and there are 40 stores, and much business, and many mills and factories, slaughtering and packing houses, oil cloths, brushes and bellows, guns and rifles, machine cards, &c. The communication with the towns below, by hourly coaches, omnibusses, &c. make this almost a suburb of Troy.

Waterford has four churches, 200 dwellings, population 2,000, and a bank with a capital of \$100,000, several flour mills and manufactories that derive their water power from the Mohawk, and here are three locks of 11 feet, uniting the Champlain Canal to the Hudson and Mohawk. The bridge over the Hudson to Lansingburg, of 800 feet long, cost \$70,000, was carried away in the great storm and freshet of 26th and 27th of January, 1839. This is the extreme head of sloop navigation. The Cohoes Falls, on the Mohawk, that are elsewhere described, (see p. 88,) may be visited in a ride of three miles from this place, and the aqueduct over the Mohawk, and other scenes and points of importance.

The *Rensselaer and Saratoga Rail-road* starts in Troy from the vicinity of the fashionable hotels, the Troy House, and the Mansion House, at the junction of Albany and River-streets, and goes through River to Frederick-street, and thence crosses the Hudson by a covered bridge 1,600 feet long, on eight piers of cut stone, 30 feet above high water, and 34 feet wide, with a water way of 180 feet between each pier, two of them resting on Fish Island, thence to Tibbitt's or Green Island, and then assumes a direction to the north four and a half miles, passing over the delta and three branches of the Mohawk on bridges resting on substantial abutments of stone to *Waterford*, thence following side by side with the canal and the Hudson River for eight miles to *Mechanicsville*, a village of a few mills and 60 dwellings, then crossing the canal, turns to the north-west up the valley, and past Round Lake in four miles, and in six miles from this, a creek, and for two miles it runs in close proximity to the Saratoga and Schenectady Rail-road, and enters Ballston Spa, and there uniting with the other road, both trains pass on to Saratoga, after a few minutes halt to discharge those passengers desirous of remaining

at Ballston for a few days to test the exhilarating qualities of its famous medicinal waters, and enjoy the fashionable society at the *Sans Souci* and the other hotels. Twenty-four miles from Troy, seven from Saratoga, 30 from Albany.

There are three churches, a reading room, a court house, a jail, a six story brick building intended for a cotton factory, several mills, six hotels and stores, 180 houses, and 1,100 inhabitants. It is situated in a vale, and a small creek winds its way through the centre, and has a succession of cascades, where art has added to the picturesque effect.

The price of board is from three to eight or ten dollars a week. As there are two post offices in the town, travelers must be careful to have their letters and papers sent to *Ballston SPA*.

The *Stimpson Farm* in Galway, of 1000 acres, is on a spur of a mountain 10 miles north-west of the spa in Ballston, and as boarders are received by the proprietor, and the farm is celebrated as a pattern, and is withal situated in a position overlooking a large extent of country, a visit to it, in making a circuit through the neighborhood, is recommended.

By his method, four tons of hay and 100 bushels of corn to the acre have been realized.

Galway Corners has two churches, four stores, 40 dwellings, and two public houses. West Galway, three miles further, has 20 dwellings, and a meeting-house for Quakers, Baptists, and Presbyterians.

A ride on the plains between the Green and Mayfield Mountains, is a favorite excursion with strangers.

The *Sans Souci* is the most prominent building in this village, and is of wood, with a front of 160 feet, and wings of 150 feet, and three stories high; that, with its broad piazzas, and court yard tastefully embellished with trees and shrubbery, its neat lawns, clean and well kept gardens and grounds, makes an agreeable impression on the traveler as the train takes a sweep through the village, crosses the *Kyaderasseras*, and he alights at this splendid hotel.

The spring in the rear of the hotel, and that in the rear of the village hotel, and the original spring at the west of the village, contain, as essential ingredients, the carbonates of soda, of lime, iron, and magnesia; the tonic qualities of the iron, and the sparkling and enlivening influence of the fixed air that they possess in an extraordinary degree, have a wonderful effect upon enervated, bilious, and debilitated constitutions.

Such is the salutary effect of these waters upon some, that an annual resort to them in summer is indispensable, but to strangers prudence would dictate that the advice of a resident physician should always be obtained as to the quantity and mode of taking them.

Ballston, or *Long Lake*, is five miles south of the Spa, and is a fine body of pure water, five miles in extent north and south, and one wide, and yields good sport to the votaries of old Isaac Walton; and the same may be said of other lakes in this county and vicinity, such as Saratoga, Round and Owl Lakes; the former is nine miles long by three wide, six south of Saratoga and six east of Ballston Spa; and at the taverns on the west shore of the lake are good accommodations, and the necessary equipments for fishing, fowling, or sailing. The border of the Saratoga Lake is marshy and accessible but in few places, but soon rises into elevated ridges amphitheatrically, with some cultivation. Snake hill on the east shore is 200 feet high, and intrudes into the lake three miles from the south end. The argillaceous and graywacke slate composing its rock strata is remarkably contorted. The lake is supplied by the Kyaderasseras Creek that heads in the mountains a few miles to the north-west, and its outlet is Fish Creek, that joins the Hudson at Schuylerville eight miles east. (See index)

As the cars leave Ballston for Saratoga, the road curves to the north through the principal street over a bridge and an embankment, and then strikes off to the north-east over the creek, which course it continues to Saratoga. The line of this road of $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles, passing the Ballston Lake as above described, is over a country so level as not to require an inclination over 16 feet per mile; its cost, from its cheap construction, being only \$300,000, with engine, cars, &c.; the sills of wood with iron plates.

Saratoga Springs,

that are now so easily reached by rail-road from Albany or Troy, are situated on a broad street, on which are the principal hotels, five churches and 250 dwellings. The hotels in most repute are the *United States*, an edifice of brick, 200 feet by 36, four stories high, with a wing of 60 feet on the north and three stories high, and another on the south

of 100 feet by 50, with commodious parlors and bed-rooms for families. The grand piazza in front extends and connects with that on the south and rear, and the ground and garden is most tastefully and pleasingly laid out, and admirably well kept, clean and attractive; the house can receive 300, and the dining and drawing rooms are capacious and elegant. There are about five acres attached to this establishment, with extensive stables, &c. The house is kept by Seaman and Marvin.

The *Congress Hall* is 200 feet in front and three stories high, with an attic, and has a wing of 60 and one of 100 feet. But the most striking and effective feature in this spacious edifice, and in fact in the entire village street, is the ample piazza in front, and its pillars of wood entwined with evergreens in the happiest manner, with a flower garden in front of the colonnade, separated from the street by a neat railing. A pine grove and a garden in the rear are enjoyed from the back piazza. The construction is of wood, and can also receive 300. It is the nearest to the Congress Spring, the fountain of health, and has a gravel walk and shade trees leading thereto.

The *Pavillion* is of wood, and has a front of 136 feet, and a wing of 80, and one of 200 feet, with private parlors and lodging rooms, convenient for families. It is two and a half stories high with an attic, and a portico and collonade in front; a large garden, with a small lake in the rear for fishing. The rooms are so arranged with folding doors as to throw open the whole into one grand saloon, for dining or for balls and large assemblies.

The *Union Hall*, opposite the Congress, 120 feet front and three stories high, with two wings of 60 feet, and a building adjoining of 100 feet, with private parlors and a garden in the rear; kept by Putnam and Taylor. The *Adelphi Hotel* is brick, three stories high, near the United States; kept by Mr. Cross.

The *Columbian Hotel*, south of the Pavillion, has a garden.

The *Washington Hall*, a retired house in the north part of the street, free from noise and dissipation. Boarding may be had from four to twelve dollars per week.

Prospect Hall, one mile north-west, by B. R. Putnam, and *Highland Hall*, half a mile south of the Congress, may be resorted to in case of need.

The healing virtues of these waters to invalids was un-

folded by the aborigines to their friend and patron, Sir William Johnson, in 1767, when he was borne to the spring on a litter, but by the use of the waters a few weeks, he was reinstated in health. At that time, bears, deer, wolves and moose abounded, beaver and salmon-trout sported in the stream, and the huts of the Indians were scattered in the valley.

In 1783, Gen. P. Schuyler came from Fish Creek and spent several weeks under a tent with his family, near the High Rock Spring, and in 1789 G. Putnam came in, and with him and his descendants, and other settlers of that day, began the permanent settlement and improvements that have continued to the present time.

The *High Rock Spring*, rising as it does in a circular aperture to a certain height in the interior of a dome-shaped rock, elevated several feet above the surrounding level, would in any part of the world be viewed as a remarkable curiosity; but when accompanied as it is by the emission of such a quantity of fixed air, the deadly carbonic acid gas of the laboratory of nature, with the mysterious and alarming effect upon animal life that it exhibits, great indeed must have been the astonishment of the early discoverers.

Even now its "grotto del cane," unseen cause, though understood and explained, is to the uninitiated a gaping wonder, that will attract for ever thousands of pilgrims and worshippers.

In 1792, Mr. Gillman, a member of *Congress*, discovered the Spring that bears that name, issuing from an aperture in the side of a rock that bordered the little brook that rises from the earth 50 rods west, and for several years it could only be collected in small quantities as it came from the rock, only to tantalize the eager and thirsty recipient; attempts were made to excavate and search for its source, and for a time it was lost, and the goose that has since returned and placed its golden egg beneath, fled for a time from the eager and prying curiosity of man, but the sagacious Putnam, observing, after a lapse of events, signs of gas rising through the water of the brook, turned the stream aside, and by digging eight feet through marl and gravel, recovered the sacred fountain, placed a tube of plank ten inches square rising to the surface, from whence flows the precious fluid in abundance—one gallon per minute—and can be increased by lessening the pressure in the curb. The temperature is 50° Fahrenheit. The analysis of Dr. Steel gives, in a gallon of 231 cubic inches of water,

chloride of sodium or sea salt 385 grains ; hydriodate of soda, 3.5 ; bicarbonate of soda, 8.982, bicarbonate of magnesia, 95.788 ; carbonate of lime, 98.093 ; carbonate of iron, 5.075 ; silex, 1.5 ; total, 597.943 grains ; and of carbonic acid gas, 311 ; atmospheric air, seven ; total, 318 cubic inches.

The gas affects respiration near the surface of the fountain, and fish and frogs when immersed in the water perish. The water is used in a fresh gaseous state in making bread, or in preparing hot cakes, in which sour cream is a component, and forms an expeditious and palatable article. When first brought up from the tubes it is limpid and sparkling, but soon has a pellicle and sediment, and the glass has a stain ; four to six half-pints in the morning before breakfast operate as a cathartic and diuretic, and give increased appetite and vigor.

There are 18 other springs that are all of nearly the same properties, and rise in the same valley, viz. the *Columbian Springs*, the *Washington*, the *Hamilton*, the *Flat Rock*, and the *High Rock*, the *President*, 30 rods north, the *Red Spring*, 70 rods north-east ; the *Barrel*, the *Walton*, the *Monroe*, the *Ten Springs*, one mile east ; *Ellis's*, two miles south-west, issues horizontally, sparkling, clear, acidulous and chalybeate, and is esteemed for its iron ; its temperature is 48°. The third in the list is in the rear of Congress Hall, and the next in the rear of the Pavillion, 100 rods north-east, under a small Chinese temple over the well, that is 15 feet deep, and curbed. The *High Rock* is 100 rods further north, and is composed of lime, magnesia and oxide of iron, sand and clay ; its height, four feet, circumference at base, 26 feet eight inches ; a line over the top from north to south, 11 feet seven inches ; and from east to west, 10 feet nine inches ; from the top of the rock to the surface of the water, two feet four inches ; depth of water, seven feet six inches ; diameter of opening at top, 10 inches ; and from this sky-light opening a person may look into the interior formation of the dome, from whence, no doubt, the water formerly issued and deposited its sediment equally around in this tuffa formation.

Bathing houses may be found at the *Washington*, *Hamilton*, *Putnam*, and *Monroe Springs*. The enormous quantity of fixed air that is contained in the water of the Congress, to the sum of more than its bulk, cannot be equalled by any other in the world, and to this it is indebted for its celebrity.

The amusements that a sojourner at *Saratoga* may enjoy,

besides the rides to the lakes and falls within a few miles, and the regular balls and evening parties at the various hotels, consist in a subscription to the excellent library and reading-room on the block north of the United States Hotel. The library is possessed of several thousand volumes, and the reading-room supplied with 100 papers, periodicals, &c. and a register is kept of the arrivals and departures of the vast concourse of strangers that throng this place in the sultry months of June, July, and August.

Mails from Boston, New-York, Philadelphia, Albany, arrive with great punctuality, and are closed daily at nine A. M. The same caution should be used here as at Ballston Spa, in having letters and papers directed to *Saratoga Springs*, otherwise they go to, and remain at the other Saratoga Post-Office, twelve miles distant.

The direct distance to *Sandy Hill* is $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles, or to *Glenn's Falls* on the Hudson 11 miles in a north-east direction, and to those desirous of viewing the splendid falls, Hadley's and Jessup's, Glenn's and Baker's, that the pencil of Wall has sketched in the Hudson River Portfolio, it is suggested to those intending to continue on to the north to Lakes George and Champlain, Montreal and Quebec, that by hiring a coach at Saratoga it will be but a slight variation from their route, to proceed in the first place to the upper falls in the town of Luzerne, about 13 miles from Saratoga, past Jessup's Landing to the junction of the *Sacondaga* with the Hudson at Jessup's Falls, and then crossing the Hudson at Jessup's Landing near and above Hadley's Falls, and continuing on to Glenn's at the intersection of the road from the south to Lake George, and taking the best conveyances at Sandy Hill, the rail-road cars, or stages, to Whitehall 22 miles, and the steam-boat down the lake to St. John's, Canada, 122 miles; or else go from Sandy Hill or Glenn's Falls to Caldwell, at the head of Lake George, and by steam-boat 36 miles to Alexandria, enjoying the ravishing scenes that are unfolded to the eye of the delighted tourist on this lake, the very beau ideal of all that is picturesque and beautiful, and replete with scenes of the greatest historical interest to the well-read American citizen and patriot.

The *Sacondaga* branch of the Hudson River is about 80 miles long. Its sources are in an elevated mountain region, embosoming a system of lakes, the Piseker, the Oxbow Round, and Pleasant Lakes, that may be reached by following up the

Sacandaga valley from the fish-house in Broadalbin, and up to Lake *Pleasant*, the *Long Lakes*, and others in the wild central regions of Hamilton County, itself worthy of a distinct exploration on foot, and of a detailed description; the other branches of the Hudson will be alluded to hereafter.

Leaving Saratoga, and taking the road that leads east and crosses Fish Creek, the outlet of Saratoga Lake, we arrive in eight miles at its junction with the Hudson, and on the arena where was enacted some of the most important events in the drama of the revolution, and we diverge in part from the regular route, to trace back the chain of military results that transpired in this vicinity.

An overwhelming British force under Gen. Burgoyne had succeeded in penetrating from Canada into the heart of the state of New-York in powerful array, carrying in their progress the strong works at Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and arriving at Whitehall, the southern termination of Lake Champlain, flushed with victory, began to form a road through the wilderness to Fort Ann, and traces of it yet remain, and from thence advanced down the Hudson valley, driving all before them, to Stillwater, at which place a severe action occurred on the 17th September, 1777, that broke the charm of invincibility, and caused the enemy to retrace their steps, but the clustering and gathering of the regular troops and militia hemmed in and prevented the advance or retreat of the gallant foe, and finally caused a capitulation on the 17th October.

On this field the traveler may look down upon, from the hotel, it being the meadow on the margin of the Hudson and Fish Creek, where are distinct remains of Forts Hardy and Schuyler, the latter being a furlong to the south-east, overlooking the river and creek, the northern or Champlain Canal being adjacent, and the residence of the Schuyler family, and the owner of the cotton factory, and the village known as *Schuylerville*.

At *Stillwater* and on *Bemus' Heights*, two miles west of the river, was the fierce and sanguinary struggle between the British forces and the Americans, that on the 19th September and 7th October decided the fate not only of the defeated army at that time, but, by its moral effect and animation, led, perhaps, to a succession of triumphs, and the establishment of the independence of a great nation, and that in its future results and influences will be extensive as the civilized world.

The right wing of the British army, consisting of light troops, kept along or near the summit of the ridge as they advanced to the south, and commanded and overlooked the plain beneath, while the heavy artillery and baggage continued by the road that runs near to and parallel with the river, while the Americans advancing to the north to meet them, had their right wing and guns on the river road, and their left wing and skirmishers and riflemen on the heights, and this was the respective positions of the armies when the onset commenced.

Much of the battle-ground was interspersed with trees, of which but a few are living, but there was also some more open grounds, and such was the aspect of the spot designated as *Freeman's farm* in the dispatches of that day, and such it remains, as also does a trace of the British encampment. The road extends across the farm from east to west at right angles to the main road north and south, and just to the east of this intersection was the hottest of the fight, and a few rods south of a blacksmith's-shop close to a fence, Gen. Frazer, the second in command, fell by a rifle shot from one of Morgan's corps. The head quarters of Gen. Gates are seen half a mile south.

The pathetic scenes that took place amid the wounded and dying, and that have been so feelingly and graphically depicted by the dramatic and gentlemanly pen of Burgoyne, and the female tenderness of the Baroness Reidesdel, occurred in a dilapidated antiquated dwelling, painted red and yellow, with the entrance and end facing the river, it having been removed from its original position that was a quarter of a mile south-west.

Nearly all the river hills west of the Hudson from Bemus' Heights to Fort Miller, twelve miles, have some remains of the hasty ramparts thrown up by the contending armies; and there are also some above and on the east of the river, that may be seen from the canal and stage road.

A mile and half above Schuylerville, the Battenkill comes in to the Hudson from the east, its sources being at the base of the Green Mountains in Vermont twenty miles distant, and also a portion from the *Big Pond* in Argyle; it has a rapid current and several falls, and one three miles from its mouth of 60 feet, that in freshets is worth beholding. There is a bridge over the stream near its mouth, and one over the Hud-

son from Northumberland to Greenwich, near the rapids or Saratoga Falls, three miles below Fort Miller.

At Fort Miller is a church, a mill, a tavern, store, and 30 dwellings, and hereabouts it was that Gen. Burgoyne passed his troops over to the west side as he was forcing his way down to the south, to reach New-York or Albany.

At *Fort Edward*, near the great bend of the Hudson as it crosses over Glenn's and Baker's Falls, are three locks on the canal of 10 feet each, and the ruins of the fort built in 1755, by Gen. Lyman and Johnson, at the old *landing or carrying place* to Wood Creek. The walls were formerly thirty feet high, and defended by cannon, with a deep fosse in front, and in the French war was a post of importance as the medium and connecting link with Lake George, and here Burgoyne and his army waited six weeks for provisions to come on from the lake in his rear, and thus lost the best part of the season for his military operations.

The former seat of war and watchfulness is now changed to a peaceful and pleasant plain, fair and fertile, with 100 dwellings, a church, two hotels, a tavern, nine stores, three mills, a distillery, and two breweries.

The great dam above the village and ruins of the old fortification is 27 feet high and 900 feet across the river, and throws an ample supply of water into the feeder of the canal, besides forming a cascade, from its height and width, of considerable magnificence.

Below the dam is an island and two bridges of 500 feet each. The village is supplied with water from a fine spring on the hill a quarter of a mile east, near the fatal spot that witnessed the tragical death of Miss M'Crea in 1777, that was here murdered by the two savages that had been employed by her lover to take her to a place of safety, and quarreled about the promised reward, and in their fury she fell a sacrifice.

Above the dam, the canal extends twenty-one miles north-east to Lake Champlain, at Whitehall, its summit level being only 51 feet above the Hudson, and 30 above Lake Champlain, and 127 feet *below* Lake George.

Baker's Falls commence at the bend of the river where it winds around to the south in a deep ravine in the rock of limestone, the descent being 76 feet in 60 rods, the water rushing with great fury in and through numerous serpentine channels and deep excavations that it has bored and

worn into the rock, but having no perpendicular fall, but a variety of chutes, that are exceedingly varied and imposing at particular stages of the water, as influenced by the seasons, and may be advantageously viewed from a projecting rock on the east shore below the mills.

Sandy Hill, where the rail-road from Saratoga to Whitehall crosses the Hudson on a viaduct of 1,100 feet long, is a half shire village of 110 dwellings on a high sandy plain adjacent to Baker's Falls, and is a pleasant and healthy site, has a Presbyterian and Episcopal church with *cupolas*, and two Congregational, a Methodist and Catholic, *without*; there are seven mills, two good hotels, two furnaces, 10 stores. The streets are arranged upon a triangular plat, having an open, ornamented and neat enclosed area, with elegant and comfortable houses and the county buildings, the courts being held alternately here and at Salem.—From this place to Glenn's Falls, three miles west, is a road on the high bank of the river, so level, beautiful, and pleasant, that few can exceed it, both villages being in sight.

Glenn's Falls are next encountered; the village has 130 dwellings, two churches, the hotel and three taverns, eight stores and groceries, 31 mechanics' shops, a printing-office and paper, six lime-kilns, 11 mills, some for sawing the black and variegated marble, that is here found, into slabs, and others for lumber and shingles: the marble quarries are extensive, and the price is 75 cents the superficial foot in New-York. The falls have a total descent of 70 feet, at first in one angular mass of 900 feet wide and five feet fall, the whole width of the river, that, when in full flood, descends with a grandeur, tumult, and foaming rage, that excites awe and admiration in the beholder, as it is contemplated from the bridge in passing; at a low stage of the water the scene is remarkably changed, and could hardly be recognized as it plunges into the crevices, caves and sinuosities of the dark and irregularly formed rock, and again issues forth in jets and boiling or whirling forms, or glides with rapidity over slopes worn to a polished surface by the abrasion of the waters. The general face and aspect of the fall is to the east, and after it shoots under the bridge and partly through caves and water-worn excavations under the traveler's feet, and in seams of the horizontal secondary limestone, well worth exploration as the source and scene of legends and frightful Indian tales, the water extricates itself from its laby-

rinthine concealments in the dark and massive rocks, and is received into the bed of the river below, under the frowning face of impending towering precipices, and escapes over a series of rapids that has caused a wide, vast, and deep gorge in the rocky hills almost as regular as an artificial cut in the solid rock, and exposing the stratification to the easy examination of the geologist, and the trilobites and organic remains are seen in perfection.

A feeder and a branch canal seven miles long, extends from the Hudson two miles above Glenn's, where is a dam across the Hudson of 12 feet high and 770 feet long, that fills the canal as it passes through Glensville and Sandy Hill, and feeds the Champlain Canal, that it enters in Kingsbury, two miles above Fort Edward, where there are thirteen locks.

Jessup's and Hadley's Falls are the next distinguished objects to attract the attention of the traveler devoted to the admiration of the picturesque and beautiful in nature. The first is ten miles beyond Glens Falls, and the second occurs within the next five miles, and may be conveniently examined by starting in the morning either from Sandy Hill or Saratoga, and returning the same day, with ample time to spend a few hours at either spot. As the country in that direction is rather wild and unsettled, it may be advisable to make provision for a rural fête champêtre to enliven the party.

The first fall exhibits the entire volume of the Hudson in one grand cataract of 100 feet; the next it is seen leaping through the rocky gates of the mountains, that appear to have been cloven to admit its passage; and to a person viewing it from below, it appears to come bounding down the jagged, irregular, gigantic barriers with irrepressible fury, and a magnificence and variety endless, bewitching, and indescribable.

The road from Luzerne or Glenn's Falls to Lake George is a yellow pine plain, soil sandy, rather barren, and destitute of interest until we approach within three miles of the head of the lake, before overtopping the rising ground seen in front, where the road passes by a crater-like or bowl-shaped pond on the east, in close proximity, deep, dark, and dismal, its unruffled surface covered with the pond-lily, and its depths lined with the bones of the soldiers that perished in the conflicts on its borders, and that were here thrown in, and ever since called the Bloody Pond.

In proceeding from Fort Edward to Lakes George and Cham-

plain, we pass in review ground consecrated in history, not only by the war of our independence and the American revolution, but also in those murderous affairs and sanguinary conflicts of previous years, when the hordes of French troops issuing from Canada, aided by infuriate savage demons, carried terror and destruction along the whole northern frontiers.

It is our purpose to describe first the events and the scenery connected with Lake George and Ticonderoga, and then to give the canal and rail-road route from Sandy Hill to Whitehall, and down the lake to intersect the other route, and pass along its surface and by its shores to Canada.

The traveler, while musing on the scenes that have been enacted on this border within eighty years past, amid the gloomy forest through which he proceeds for two or three miles, arrives at the crown of a long and tedious ascent, through the vista of mountains that have accompanied his progress for several miles; those on the east being elevated, and in some places denuded of vegetation; those on the west being more depressed, but clothed with the remains of the native forest; when at the precise and most advantageous pinnacle the curtain of the forest is withdrawn, and the cleared spot unfolds to the astonished and enraptured gaze of the tourist the full and glorious scene.

The LAKE is expanded beneath his view to more than half its extent, with a beauty and lustre emanating from its surface of a transparent cerulean hue that fills the mind with rapture; the first glance and the deep impression can never be obliterated from the imagination of the ardent and sensitive traveler; the splendid frame-work of mountains that encloses the lake and its beautiful islands, and that forms a background of extreme beauty and finished excellence, the noble promontory that it puts forth on the north, of 1,500 feet high, and seen at 14 miles distance, with the softened hue that harmonizes with the receding perspective, terminated on each side by the deep bays or prongs that gird, on the north-west and north-east in diverging lines, the base of this noble headland or promontory, is the complete realization of eager expectations of all that is exquisite in lake scenery.

Lake George, or *Sacrament*, as it was termed by the French, from the unrivalled and admirable clearness and purity of its waters, that induced them to use it for religious purposes, baptism, &c. is 34 miles long and from one to four broad, (average perhaps about two) for 20 miles, is, more or less,

from the promontory referred to, ornamented with an archipelago of islands of the most fanciful, varied, and lovely forms, that leaves no taste ungratified.

Caldwell—the village at the head of the lake at its south-west corner, with its spacious hotel, capable of receiving 100 or more tourists; has about 40 dwellings and 500 inhabitants, the county buildings, clerk's office, jail and court house.

A road from the south passes through Caldwell to the north-west, and in six miles crosses the Hudson River, and continues on ten miles to *Chester*, a village of 150 dwellings and two churches, with mills, and on the outlet of *Friend's Lake* two miles long; from this a road branches off north-west to Ogdensburgh, on the St. Lawrence, and another north past Scroon Lake, and on the west side of Lake Champlain to Plattsburgh, and is the nearest and best land route to Montreal and Quebec, and attracts considerable travel and business in this direction.

Scroon Lake is eight miles long north-east to south-west, and from half to two and a half miles wide, embosomed in lofty mountains. Brant or Loon Lake is five miles long, one wide, and is south-east of Scroon Lake.

The *Natural Bridge*, a mile or two above the outlet of Scroon Lake, may be visited at the same time, with the wild romantic shores of the various lakes in its vicinity. A stream, named Trout Creek, a few rods above the bridge, tumbles over a precipice into an excavation; there a branch runs east and forms divided channels, one being under an arch of granite 40 feet high and 80 feet wide, that may be followed 160 feet, the other and principal one, more difficult of exploration, opens into dark and cavernous recesses, with deep pools of water, and at 250 feet from its beginning the united currents emerge to light below a precipice of 56 feet, and an arch of five feet high and ten wide.

In 1755 to 1759, when the American Colonies were involved in the contest between Great Britain and France, the theatre of operations shone forth on Lake George, that then exhibited armaments and a more glittering array of foreign troops than had ever before occurred, or it is destined ever again to witness; and that the sweet repose that now prevails on this lake should ever have been disturbed by the din, tumult and complicated horrors of a war growing out of the hatred, feuds and jealousies of distant nations, that sent their warriors hither to enact those feats of arms, and fulfill the bloody, cruel

mandates of distant rulers and potentates, appears now to have been as unnatural as it was surprising.

The first conflicts took place south of the head of Lake George, where a body of English and colonial troops had been assembled in September, 1755, under the command of Gen. afterwards Sir William Johnson, a man that had a spurious, unfounded reputation, and was saved from defeat and disgrace by the brave Gen. Lyman, of Massachusetts, the second in command.

Johnson lay carelessly encamped, but unfortified, in open field on the hills near the site of Fort M'Henry, a little south of the present village of Caldwell; when Gen. the Baron Dieskau, who had recently arrived from France, advanced from Montreal up Lake Champlain, passed Fort Frederic, or Crown Point, and Ticonderoga, and boldly up to Skenesboro, now Whitehall, and landed, and marched towards Fort Edward, then called Fort Lyman, on the Hudson, then in an incomplete state and without cannon, as he had been truly informed by one of his scouts; but after proceeding a few miles and near Fort Anne, he suddenly altered his plan, and directed his column towards Lake George to surprise Johnson and his army, and was only foiled in this manœuvre by a timely and chance discovery of his change of the line of march that reached Johnson, who up to this hour had not been aware of the vicinity of an enemy under such a gallant and chivalric commander, and then began in great haste and terror to throw up entrenchments around his camp, that was injudiciously placed too low, and overlooked and commanded by neighboring eminences; he also dispatched 1,200 troops under Col. Ephraim Williams, to advance and meet Dieskau and his forces, who being aware by his spies of Williams' approach, arranged his men on both sides of the road in a crescent form, extending his wings into the woods so as to enclose his unsuspecting opponents.

The Americans struck at the centre of the French line with unflinching boldness and intrepidity, but they outflanked and closed in upon Williams' detachment, and poured in a murderous fire both on his front and rear at the same moment, that killed Col. Williams and Hendrick the brave Mohawk Indian chieftain.* The detachment, after the death of Wil-

* Hendrick was shot in the back, to his exceeding mortification and chagrin, it being considered dishonorable to be touched in the rear; he was 65 years of age, very corpulent and gray headed; he had a voice of

liams, was drawn off to the main body by Col. Whiting in good order, followed by the French and Indians to the lines of Johnson's encampment, where the troops recovered from their panic, rallied within the hasty entrenchments, and the battle commenced anew, and lasted several hours, when the French and Indians were driven in their turn and pursued and scattered, and Dieskau badly wounded and taken prisoner, and the baggage and ammunition captured. This action was in the environs of the Bloody Pond before alluded to, into which the dead bodies were thrown—700 French and 300 English.

In 1757, the French army of 8000 men under the famous Gen. Montcalm, with thousands of Indians, made a formidable invasion up Lake Champlain, and appeared before Fort Wm. Henry, and demanded its surrender from Col. Monroe, and was refused, and began the siege that lasted six days, the Colonel expecting to be momentarily relieved by Gen. Webb, with 4,000 men at Fort Edward, only fifteen miles distant, but he not daring to appear, Col. Monroe, after a brave resistance, was forced to capitulate under honorable stipulations, that included protection from savage fury; but this was not observed, for out of the garrison of 3,000, 1,500 were massacred in cold blood on the 9th of August. The fort was soon after demolished by the French, as they had strong works existing at Ticonderoga and Crown Point.

In 1758, it being desirous to dislodge the French from their strong holds at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, the large force of 10,000 provincials and 7,000 regular troops was again concentrated at the head of Lake George, under the command of General Abercrombie, and on the 5th July, leaving only a guard, this formidable force was embarked in over a thousand boats, in one of those fine summer days when the genial air and the placid lake conspired to aid the gorgeous military effect of this grand pageant; the boats were arranged in lines and divisions in precise order; the lion and the cross, the "meteor flag of England," was triumphantly exhibited to the confident, well-commanded army; and all being arranged, the signal was given—they advanced uniformly to the sound of the finest military music, that the re-echoing hills returned with admirable effect from the glens and forests, as if the thick woods were peopled with unseen spirits, startled and

immense power and volume, that when he harangued his people, could be heard amid the hills for miles.

affrighted from their deep, romantic, and inaccessible recesses, at the unwonted and strange sights and sounds that astounded them. This pomp and splendor continued for several hours, during the progress down the lake, giving the army ample time to look around upon the splendid panorama that environed them, and at the approaching place of debarkation, (at the present landing-place,) and at the lurking foes they should soon have to encounter.

They landed and were arranged in four columns, and advanced under incompetent guides through crooked roads to the north-east, and soon fell into some disorder, that was increased by meeting the pickets and out-posts of the foe that had retreated on the first landing of the army, but seeing the confusion that now prevailed in the columns, they rallied, and at their first fire Lord Howe,* the second in command, fell; the war-whoop began, and after a warm skirmish, in which 300 of the foe were killed, and 148 taken prisoners, with trifling loss on the English side, the columns retired to the landing.

Taking the precaution the next day to send a force to reconnoitre and secure the mill at the outlet of Lake George, and to view the enemy and works situated on a peninsula, with the lake and outlet nearly environing it, and an abattis in part to obstruct the crossing of the isthmus, the army advanced heedlessly to the attack, without attempting to cannonade the works, as the abattis was held in too much contempt; but on their near approach, and complete exposure to the fire of the foe, themselves concealed behind the abattis in perfect security, and taking unerring deliberate aim on their assailants, the havoc was so great that the English and colonial forces gave it up in despair, after a conflict and struggle of four hours; during which the brave Highlanders three times drove the French from a portion of the abattis, but were not supported.

The loss of the English in this failure was near 2,000 men; that of the French, three or four officers and a few privates. The latter did not at first intend to make but a show of resistance; but seeing the English so daring, and exposed to their mercy, they tried to thin their ranks, and succeeded.

The English commander ordered a retreat, though he had 14,000 men unharmed, and the French had only 3,000; thus voluntarily adding disgrace to defeat.

* The father of the Lord Howe that commanded here in the American revolution.

In July, 1759, another British armament of similar force, under General Amherst, made its appearance on Lake George; and at its approach the positions of Ticonderoga and Crown Point were abandoned by the French as untenable, as they doubtless were, as more recent events proved, and they abandoned them for ever.

In 1777, when Ticonderoga and Crown Point were occupied by the Americans for the last time, as important military posts, they abandoned them when General Burgoyne approached; and since the revolutionary war, and our frontier has been so much extended to the north, they are looked upon as almost the only relics and ruins of any note in this State that are invested with the garb of a moderate antiquity and veneration.

Fort George, at the head of the lake, still presents its outline and circular massy wall, and ramparts of stone 20 feet high, and in good condition, a short distance east from those of Fort William Henry, and one-fourth mile back from the strand; and here is also the best view of the widest part of the lake, and of the north-west bay, and of the ranges of mountains for 20 miles, and of several of the largest islands, and of the head promontory before alluded to, and of the shelving rock that intrudes from the east far into the lake, and beyond which the eastern arm of the lake turns to the right.

The passage across the lake by steam-boat from Caldwell, 36 miles north, fare about \$2, is made daily, in summer, to gratify tourists and travelers; that at Ticonderoga can intersect the boat that touches there daily, and continue on up or down the lower lake. Those wishing to return to Caldwell the same day, can do it by the return of the boat, but strangers usually devote the remainder of the day to Ticonderoga, three miles beyond the landing, and a very agreeable walk along the outlet and falls of Lake George, estimated at a descent of 150 to 300 feet; the surface of Lake George is 243 feet above tide, the greatest depth 60 fathoms; its sources, probably, from the deepest, coldest, and purest springs, as it has no rivers of any consequence running into it.

The lake is frozen about 25th December, and remains closed usually three and a half or four months, when, without sinking, as it does in Lake Champlain, the ice gradually dissolves. There is no current, except near the outlet, and the shores being rocky or gravelly, the water is pure and potable,

and has no lime; the borders are the seat of health, and fever and ague is a stranger. The melting of the snow in spring only raises the lake one or two feet. The prevalent winds are N. E. and S. W. There are more settlements on the west than on the east side of the lake on the slopes, from a few rods to a mile wide, reaching up the mountain, that will, some future day, be decked out all in terraces and villas, for it is impossible that such charming sites should be always neglected.

Deer and bears still abound on the mountains, and the depths of the lake with the largest and finest trout, bass, and perch, and the lofty cliffs of the hills and crags with eagles and rattlesnakes; and for these Mount Prospect has an especial bad name, that is to be regretted, as it is said to command a capital view of the lake, and between the dread of one and the love of the other, "*de gustibus non est disputandum.*"

Excursion on Lake George.

Every traveler in making an excursion on this lake, if he is favored with a proportion of suitable weather, clear and cloudy, fair and foul, to see the changes of the scene, the lights and shades, and hear the effect of echos from a heavy thunder-storm reverberated from the amphitheatre of mountains, will enroll it in the calendar of his life as one of the most memorable epochs of his existence.

On putting out from the village on the broad surface of the pellucid crystal waters of the lake, the enjoyment begins by the contemplation of the surrounding panorama, the noble mountains on the east, with their deep shadows reflected in the water-mirror at their base, the graceful slopes on the west, and the border on the south, with the acclivity covered with a fine green sward, interspersed with groups of forest-trees, and a handsome sprinkling of evergreens. The time-worn battlements of Forts George and William Henry, half shrouded in moss and shrubbery, are invested with a hallowed interest from the associations of the stirring events of by-gone days of war and chivalry that those walls and the pinnacles of the adjacent mountains have witnessed.

The islands and shores soon come in for a large share of the tourist's admiration. The beauty, variety, and grace of the curves of the finely wooded margin of the lake, with forests and groves rising at various angles, or overshadowing

and forming natural arbors of the many recesses and indentations that are presented in endless variety on both shores; the deep umbrageous twilight effect of some masses of trees and underwood, is contrasted with the more open and gay lawns and groves, that appear prepared for the rural fête or merry dance. The smooth slopes and cheerful borders, that are already partially occupied by the primitive settlers, or their immediate descendants, and that have made themselves rudely comfortable and happy in the rough log-hut or more finished tenement, extend for miles, and are followed by promontories encroaching boldly into the lake, and forbidding access to the husbandman. The points are varied, acute, and angular, gliding into rounded and circular, followed by fretted and scalloped margins, or a beach of bright yellow, or golden, or light-colored sand, displaying the purity and transparency of the waters, and tempting the feet of the nymph to tread its unsullied margin, or to bathe in its soft, and shining, or glistening waters.

The spurs, or angles of the mountains, at times intrude far out in the lake, and are covered with the native forest; and at others are but long narrow ridges stretching horizontally, or with a graceful declination to meet the surface of the waters; or they assume the appearance of islands in the looming up of the distant perspective.

After continuing on for ten miles, a bare spot, denuded of its forest and shrubbery, is observed, where the hunters are in the habit, annually, of setting fire to the last year's dry grass, to admit of the new growth of the spring to come forth, and tempt the deer from their haunts, that soon after are seen to frequent it in herds, when the noisy yelping of the hounds, and the sharp crack of the rifles, are heard echoing and faintly responding from amid the distant hills. These fires sometimes range uncontrolled in the forest, and have a sad and destructive influence on the landscape, but at night the effect of one of these conflagrations is truly sublime.

Twelve Mile Island, so called from its computed distance from the head of the lake, is 35 feet in elevation, contains over 20 acres, and is very near the centre of the lake, and of a circular form, and only requires to be preserved in all its pristine beauty.

Beyond this round island, the lake in one mile divides into two prongs, that to the left being the north-west bay, six miles long, and the other the north-east bay leading to the outlet

and landing; between the two prongs rises the noble headland or promontory of *Tongue Mountain* to a height of 1,400 feet, that abuts boldly forth, and lords it over the opposite heights, and looks down upon the lake that at its base has a depth of several hundred feet, and upon the clustering islands that here begin and form the narrows, for six or seven miles. The mountain can be ascended from the rear, but at great risk of reptiles and being bewildered in the forest; but the view from the summit is surpassingly beautiful.

The *Fairy Group of Islands* now thicken as we proceed, and assume infinite variety in shape and feature; some being in groups, or families, of five to twenty or thirty, or twin-like, or in solitary beauties, standing out for admiration, or more coyly retiring from the public gaze, and requiring to be sought out from the concealments of the labyrinth, ever changing, ever new, to the enchanted beholder, that delights to repeat his explorations as he discovers new beauties at every repetition of his visit as he lingers among these embowered Borromean isles.

There are such an infinity of forms of beauty in their figure and dimensions, that nature appears, as it is in truth, inexhaustible in resources; some are mere islets or naked rocks, in contrast with tufted and brilliant verdant spots, of a few feet to a furlong or a mile in length; the vegetation of some is scanty, but in most it is perfect; some have but a tree or two, or are decorated with a feathery group, inclining like the princes gracefully towards the surrounding margin; some are dense with forest or shrubbery, others admit of winding paths beneath o'ertopping trees, shaded from the noon-day sun, and free from undergrowth; others, as the boat insinuates and glides too rapidly past long and narrow islands, presents, for a moment, apertures that disclose the near or more distant mountains, or a glimpse of sky, or of objects and forms beautiful, evanescent, and magically changing as they are approached but to be admired and lost in the rapid transition.

The pine, with its tall trunk peering above all competitors, waving loftily and nobly in the sky, occupies many such positions; while on other islands the maple, the beech, or the oak, in liveliest verdure, and in the wild luxuriance of native vigor have uncontrolled dominion, or are seen in various stages of decay, or scathed and splintered by lightning. The whole scene is doubly enhanced by the unruffled mirror that inverts the forms above, of islands, trees, rocks, and winding shores

in the sky-reflected arch beneath, depicted with the truth and coloring of nature.

If the admeasurement is correct, *Black Mountain* that is on the east, eighteen miles from Caldwell, is the highest crest of any of the range bordering the lake, being 2,200 feet high, and in front of it on the west, is the half way house or island; and here the traveler will behold, in the next few miles, the choicest lake scenery.

The mountain has a serrated waving outline of much grandeur, and is densely clothed with evergreens, pines, and firs.

On a projection from the west shore, 24 miles from the head of the lake, is a prominent point named from a party of English having had a conflict with the Indians on that day, *Sabbath-day Point*. The small island, called the *Scotch Bonnet*, is seen in three miles; and in three miles more a cluster of dwellings and mills, known as Hague, on the west shore, and here the lake attains its utmost width, said to be 4 miles.

Three miles further the traveler will notice a rock of 200 feet high, descending to the lake at an angle of 25 degrees, and decidedly more easy of descent than ascent; and the tradition is, that in the war of 1755 to 9, *Major Rogers*, a partisan officer, equal to Putnam in intrepidity and hatred to the Indians, and being their most vindictive enemy and persecutor, found himself, when pursued and nearly in their grasp, on the verge of this inclined plane at the top of the mountain, down which (it being probably covered with snow, as he had his snow-shoes on, and had no alternative) he slid, without flinching, just as his pursuers were upon him, and left them standing aghast and shrinking from following his nimble footsteps, and beholding with amazement his charmed life, as he appeared in safety at the base of the precipice, down which they dared not follow.

Anthony's Nose, one of those singular nicknames, and such a noted and peculiar prominence on the Mohawk, and on the profile of a jutting rock and mountain in the Highlands of the Hudson, is also found here in opposite face to the *Rogers' Slide*; the precipices are 50 to 100 feet in elevation, and the shores contracted amid gigantic masses of rock. Two miles from the above is an island where the prisoners that were taken from the French were put upon the limits, and west of the island is the point where the English army under Lord Howe, consisting of 16,000 men, were landed and marched to the attack of Ticonderoga, as mentioned.

A huge rock fell from the precipice at Anthony's Nose, a few years since, and plunging into the lake, came very near demolishing a fisherman and sinking a canoe by the surge it created.

On a rock opposite to this are said to be a series of Indian mortars wrought in the solid stone, for pounding their corn. Some of them are capable of containing half a barrel, and others of smaller size, smooth and circular.

The water of the lake that has, up to this point, been of an emerald green, now changes to a muddy color, from the difference in bottom, that is here clay instead of rock as above; and in one mile we are at the termination of our *Excursion on Lake George*, or *Horricon*, as the Indian name is transmitted. Three miles more by the rough and winding romantic road before alluded to, along the gorge that contains the outlet of the lake we have traversed, brings the traveler in sight of Lake Champlain, and to the walls of old *Ticonderoga*.

The change in scenery when we descend to the lake below, is as obvious as that of the water. There are three falls in the outlet of the upper lake; the lowest one being 100 feet, with a rapid at the bottom, and in spring they exhibit much magnificence; at other times they are small but pleasing cascades. The *bottom* of the upper is about on a level with the *surface* of the lower lake. By following up the creek that comes in from the west near where the steamer is left, we come to a chain of small lakes near lake Pharaoh, that falls into Swan Lake, one of the heads of the north-east branch of the Hudson River.

Che-on-der-oga, by the Indian phrase, *noise*, was by the French changed into *Ticonderoga*, and was also by them named Fort Carillon, after its erection in 1756; it cost the French government a large sum of money, and was considered to be very strong both by nature and art, being surrounded on three sides by water, and by a deep swamp on part of the other, and a breastwork on the remainder; but it was subsequently easily reduced by the simple expedient adopted by Burgoyne, that had been before strangely overlooked, of hauling a piece of artillery up the pinnacle of *Mount Defiance* 725 feet high, on the south side of the creek that overlooks and entirely commands the fort, and from which a shot can with ease be thrown into the midst of the works, that had been probably supposed to be too distant to be injured in that way; but at the siege of Gibraltar shot were thrown $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and

by the French at the siege of Cadiz bombs were thrown even six miles, and perhaps more

Mount Independence, where some intrenchments are yet visible, is on the opposite or east shore of the lake, distant one mile, with a ferry in the township of Orwell, Vermont, is of diminished height, and overlooks the peninsula of Ticonderoga, though that land is 110 feet above the lake, and 196 above tide. Ochre, used as pigments in making yellow and red paints, and also plumbago or black lead, are found at the base of Mount Defiance. The village, at the head of the falls, consisting of a few houses and mills, is Alexandria; the one at the lower falls, one mile, is Ticonderoga, and has a post-office. The peninsula contains about 500 acres. The walls and chimnies yet remain, in part, as venerable ruins of the barracks and fort, as also does the magazine, 35 feet long, 15 wide, and 8 high, of stone, arched and forming a complete bomb-proof under earth; there is also a covered way and sally-port forming a subterranean passage from the southwest corner of the old fort to the lake, the identical passage that Col. Ethan Allen, of Vermont, entered in 1775, and surprised the commandant in bed before he was aware of his danger, and in his characteristic way required the officer to surrender. He replied, "To whom?" "Why to Jehovah and the Continental Congress, to be sure," was the quaint reply. This was the first fortress captured by the Americans in the war of the revolution.

The remains of another fortification, erected during the revolutionary war, are 60 rods south, on a point near the lake, and the walls are 60 feet high.

The most important events, connected with this fortress, by which so many thousands of human beings have been wantonly, and rashly, and inhumanly exposed and sacrificed in the campaign of 1758, under General Abercrombie, have been fully detailed in our preceding pages. In 1759 the French evacuated this post, that they had, with Fort Frederic or Crown Point, first endowed with military importance, and had expended on both vast treasures of men and money; that they tamely quitted as the powerful armament of Lord Amherst approached and took possession, and it so remained for 16 years, when the American revolution breaking out, it was captured without bloodshed by Colonel Allen, as before mentioned, in 1775, and held till 1777, when the British army appeared in array before it, under the gallant Burgoyne, when

St. Clair, the American commander, was forced to evacuate in his turn, and it fell into British possession, and was held during the war.

St. Clair dispatched the baggage and stores by a detachment up the lake to Whitehall, and was followed by the British in full pursuit to Fort Anne, where a skirmish ensued; but the forces under St. Clair crossed the lake to Mount Independence, and directed their march upon Hubbardton, Vermont, where Colonel Warner, with 1,000 men, was overtaken and brought to action by the advanced guard of the British, and were vanquished, and retired to Fort Edward, on the Hudson, to unite with General Schuyler. In modern times Ticonderoga and Crown Point are only adverted to as having once been an important place in American history, a species of "points d'appui," that held the keys of the lakes on which the movements of fleets and armies must take place.

After finishing Lake George and Ticonderoga, the tourist can take the steam-boat at Shoreham, in Vermont, one mile east of Ticonderoga, and return to the south by the way of Whitehall and the stage route through to Troy, or take the cars for Sandy Hill, or proceed from Shoreham to Rutland and Windsor, Vermont, and up or down the charming valley of Connecticut River, or continue on for the north down Lake Champlain to Plattsburgh and St. John's, and thence to Montreal and Quebec. The downward steam-boat from Whitehall usually calls at Shoreham, in the summer, before dark, but from Crown Point to Plattsburgh, 46 miles, the passage is made at night, there not being a line of day-boats. The price of passage from Whitehall to St. John's, 160 miles, is \$5.

We now return back to trace our route from page 145, where we diverged from the regular route to give our readers the popular lake tour.

Leaving Sandy Hill in the cars or stages, we cross the summit level, or height of land between the Hudson River and the water running north, and in a short distance the northern canal that we meet at *Fort Ann*, the village so named, 10 miles from Sandy Hill and 11 from Whitehall, and on the site of the old fort erected in 1756. It contains 60 dwellings, three churches, two taverns and stores, and is surrounded by a rolling forested country; and two miles south may be seen vestiges of the military road of logs made in 1777 for the transport of the artillery, baggage, and stores of Burgoyne's army to Saratoga.

Griswold's Mills is on Half-way Brook, four miles west of Fort Ann, and six north of Sandy Hill, and has 30 dwellings, one grist, one saw-mill, two stores, one tavern, several forges for making anchors, a trip-hammer, a furnace for castings, a pottery, and a woollen factory.

Comstock, a landing on the canal, is four miles north from Fort Ann, and is a place of much business, and has the trade of the vicinity and east part of Vermont; and several warehouses, a post-office, tavern, store, and 10 or 12 dwellings. Canal-boats are also built here.

The canal enters Wood Creek, and for $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles pursues its channel. There are three locks at Fort Ann, fall 24 feet into Wook Creek. In $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles is the narrows, and in three more is the dam in Wood Creek to supply the canal to Whitehall, and make the creek navigable three miles above to the dam-lock; and in five miles more we arrive at *Whitehall*, at the head of Lake Champlain, $73\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Albany, where the canal terminates, and has three locks and a fall of 26 feet, and in all from summit level 54, to the basin in Lake Champlain, and 30 to the Hudson at Fort Edward.

There are *pots*, or water-worn cavities in the hard gneis rock at the *narrows* on Wood Creek, near 50 feet above its present level, that clearly indicate the former existence of a much larger body of water discharging itself north through the depression of Lake Champlain; and as the Hudson, at Sandy Hill, is only 126 feet above tide at Troy, a surmise exists that this current from the Hudson to the St. Lawrence formerly obtained, or the dividing ridge may have been upheaved by earthquakes.

Whitehall, formerly Skenesborough, 73 miles from Albany, has 150 dwellings, a bank, many warehouses for the commission and forwarding trade, two large hotels, 20 general stores, and 2,500 inhabitants; a Presbyterian and a Methodist church, and Societies of Universalists, Catholics, and Baptists. It commands the steam-boat business from the south down the lake, and the canal trade, and also that of a considerable region around. A steam-boat leaves daily during the season for St. John's, Canada, 150 miles distant, touching at the several landings.

This place has much of the aspect of a port, and there are many sloops owned here, canal-boats, &c. There is not much room for wide streets, as it is in a defile and very restricted. The houses are of the stone that is quarried on the spot, and

many may be said to rise out of their cellars on knolls and elevations, and others at the edge of the harbor.

The Aboriginal name of this place was Kah-cho-quana, the *place to dip feet*, at the foot of the falls near the village where the Wood Creek and Pawlet River unite. Here may be seen rotting in the mud the useless hulks of the vessels captured by Commodore M'Donough from the British, during the last war, in the action off Plattsburgh and Cumberland Head.

The Poultney River that comes in from the north, and that has its source in Rutland County, Vermont, at the base of the Green Mountains, and in the *Lake Bombazine*, in Castleton, five miles long, in 1783 made for itself a new channel by an impetuous rush of water, the result of some outbursting of a mountain lake, or of a water-spout that forced and cut its way 60 feet deep through a ridge, and carrying so large a quantity of earth into the east bay, as to choke up, for a season, its navigation.

From Fort Ann to Whitehall, 11 miles, the canal runs side by side with Wood Creek, so near that a pistol shot will reach either, and we here see the truth of the principle of Brindley, the engineer of the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, who being questioned before the House of Commons, what he thought rivers were made for, replied, "to feed navigable canals;" and although the channel of Wood Creek is actually used for canal purposes for six or seven miles, yet as it has a strong current difficult to stem in coming from Whitehall, the canal is preferable. At one remarkable spot the road passes over, for several hundred feet, the surface of a bare rock, called the "*Devil's Dining Table*." There is a variety of hill and dale, barren rocks, swamps, tracts of clay, alluvion, and of rich mould in this county.

At Whitehall Burgoyne destroyed the American flotilla in 1777, and the baggage and stores of the American army, and had his head quarters for some time, while his troops were forming a road and clearing obstructions (that the Americans had prepared to oppose their progress,) to enable him to get on with his army and materiel the short distance to Fort Edward, and to accomplish this he spent so much time, and subsequently in camp at Fort Edward in waiting for his provisions, artillery, &c. to arrive from Whitehall, that the Americans had time to rally their militia from all quarters, and poured in her hardy mountaineers from Vermont, New

Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and soon turned back the current of invasion.

The remains of an intrenchment thrown up at that time by the English, may yet be seen on the hill overlooking the basin, the village, and the falls of Wood Creek, and the canal and locks that are compressed side by side; nature versus art. A path leads to the summit; there is a bridge over Wood Creek.

The rocks are beautifully stratified in horizontal and perpendicular lines, similar to masonry, and this is seen in other places as we pass on.

The summit of Skene's Mountain at Whitehall is 588 feet.

Short Tours near New-York.

A few suggestions as to the many cheap and agreeable excursions, rides, tours, &c. that are presented to the stranger in the vicinity of this metropolis, having but a few hours or days to allot for this purpose, may be useful to many of our readers.

Long Island may be viewed cursorily by a ride in the railroad cars starting from the Battery, and crossing the south ferry at nine o'clock in the morning to Atlantic-street, having a glimpse at a portion of *Brooklyn* and of its suburbs, the Navy Yard, Marine Hospital, and then by Bedford and across the hills, the scene of the battle of August, 1776, when the Americans were defeated by the British, and New-York was captured,—the traveler will have in view soon after starting the meadows to the south, and the mill at Gowanus and the hills adjacent, where Gen. Sullivan was captured, and in that vicinity is now forming an ornamental enclosure of 200 acres, the *Greenwood Cemetery*, on the most beautiful plan, even now worth a visit, and when matured, destined to be of powerful attraction.

The train dashes through the Bedford and Flatbush hills, and the deep cut of the summit level, and the dense woods that cover the surface for a mile or two, when, on attaining the face of the level plain skirting the base of the hills that trend north-east and south-west, the view is momentarily

ighted up, and suddenly extended to the south-east, and the eye glancing over and around the fertile fields in view, beholds in the remotest distance the waters of the *Atlantic Ocean*; but as the level of the road is soon depressed as we skim onward to the east, the view becomes limited and confined, and the train is for a few seconds slackened at the noted *Union Race Course*, where fields and fortunes are lost and won; where the *Eclipses* and *Henrys*, and the favorites of the sporting field for the day and hour, pass in rapid succession before the bewildered gaze of thousands at such times assembled.

The extensive, and remarkable, and prairie-like surface now beheld, continues east for 80 miles. The rail-road at present terminates at *Hicksville*, 27 miles from Brooklyn; and in passing onward and through the borders of the silent and pleasant village of Jamaica and residences that abound in this rural, pleasant, smiling, and rich country, we pass the late residence of that distinguished statesman Rufus King, situated near the main road on the north, embowered in trees and shrubbery (after entering the village) in the vicinity of the Episcopal church.

Rockaway, a celebrated bathing-place on the sea shore, nine miles south of Jamaica, may soon be reached, and here is an extensive erection, the *Marine Pavillion*, that when open to the public gives accommodation for hundreds, and from its galleries and colonades, and front of 225 feet, a conspicuous view of the grandeur of the heaving, tumultuous, Atlantic, with its foaming billows curling, dashing, and thundering on the hard sandy beach, beneath the eye of the delighted tourist.

A branch of the Long Island rail-road extends three miles to *Hempstead* on the plains of that name; it is a small but lively village of over a hundred houses.

The tourist can extend his visit to *Oyster Bay* on Long Island Sound, 10 or 15 miles north of Hicksville, and return from thence to New-York by steam-boat, or get to *Flushing* only five miles north of Jamaica, and visit *Prince's extensive grounds and horticultural establishment*, and the fine old oak trees near by, venerated by the society of Friends or Quakers, as having shaded, about 200 years since, George Fox, a celebrated preacher of their persuasion; and in leaving that place by steam-boat at seven in the morning or three in the afternoon, soon after passing through the celebrated rocky, wind-

ing channel at the western extremity of Long Island Sound, termed *Hurlgate*, the boat touches at Hallett's Cove, (now Astoria,) and here let the tourist step on shore, and visit the beautiful residence and horticultural and floral establishment of Mr. *Grant Thorburn*, (the *Lawrie Todd* of one of Galt's novels,) and after examining his extensive green-houses, and enjoying his peculiar colloquial talents, and viewing the neighboring grounds and the extensive public edifices on *Blackwell's Island*, in front the *Lunatic Asylum* and the large *Penitentiary*, the tourist can cross the ferry from Hallett's Cove, and walk up the hill through 86th-street to the 4th avenue at the summit bridge, and either take the rail-road cars to go through the Tunnel to Harlem, two miles north, and see Hall's garden and embellished grounds, or return to the city.

The *Long Island Excursion*, far as *Jamaica*, and the visit to *Flushing*, and to Mr. Thorburn's, may be effected between nine A. M. and six P. M.—expense \$1 50—if to Hicksville and Oyster Bay, the expense may be doubled.

The ride from New-York or Brooklyn, over the hills to *Flatbush*, and to the sea-beach of Coney Island; and to *Bath*, (where the British troops landed in 1776 under cover of the guns of their fleet, that lay moored in a crescent form,) and thence taking the road to *Fort Hamilton*, at the narrows, and by the margin of the harbor of New-York, will make a circuit of 20 to 25 miles, and give the utmost gratification.

A few hours should be devoted to an excursion in a carriage, or on foot, around the *hills* of Staten Island, 6 to 10 miles distant, touching at New Brighton, the narrows and driving on the elevated terrace past the residences of John Anthon and ——— Grymes.

The *Falls of the Passaic*, and the large manufacturing village of Patterson, 16 miles to the north-west, may be reached in an hour by starting from Powles Hook in the rail-road cars.

Hoboken, on the Jersey shore, *Weehawken*, and *Fort Lee*, are in 2 to 10 miles, and may hourly be seen and reached by steam-boats.





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